

USAF SERVICES

NEWS & VIEWS

From the front line...to the home front

The Air Force Services Agency's Online Magazine

Air Force Services Agency, San Antonio, Texas -- submissions@agency.afsv.af.mil --

January 2006

NEWS & VIEWS **LEAD STORY**

On the front lines of disaster

With only a few hours notice, 509th Services Squadron Airmen left Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to aid the hurricane cleanup on the Mississippi Coast

See story on pages 12-13;
Related story on page 14

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Greensage, 509th Services Squadron, puts on work gloves before removing debris.



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SERVICES
Combat Support & Community Service

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News & Views

The **News & Views** is published monthly by the Air Force Services Agency. Send comments, suggestions or submissions to: submissions@agency.afsv.af.mil or steve.vanwert@agency.afsv.af.mil.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of Air Force Services Agency. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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FROM THE FRONT

AF releases new mission statement

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and it must be clearer than ever before."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the National Command Authority and the combatant commanders with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes



WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Newly confirmed Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne talks about some of the early goals he has for the Air Force during an interview in his Pentagon office, Oct. 28. Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate

air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently dominate our assigned commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies are foolish and underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "Our new mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

NAF-T training key to success

By Denise Wimberley
Air Force Services
Agency

Officially, the mission of the Customer Support Division at the Shared Service Center in San Antonio, Texas, is to provide financial management and technical support as a result of the Air Force wide transformation to new technology, but that does not reveal the human side of our efforts. We are here to help make this transition as simple as possible.

Adjusting to change is uncomfortable for everyone, but armed with the right information, step-by-step assistance, and repeated practice, transitioning to the changes in business procedures will occur quicker and with, if any, fewer awkward moments.

Here at the SSC, we have experienced similar feelings as configuration and testing of the COTS solution was being accomplished.

We focused our resources to ensure the training process was value added and geared toward the end users in the field.

We strongly believe training is a key component of success.

On site training

The process begins when the SSC training deployment team arrives at your base to provide initial formal training and hands-on training of the new system and how processing of documents will be accomplished.

The CSD began the on site base training materials with topics covering an overview of the entire process, specific roles and responsibilities, revised, standardized General Ledger Accounting Codes, instructions on data transmissions to the SSC (document scanning, e-mailing electronic forms and use of interface programs), how to access financial reports and your

activities financial data.

We've tested the on-site training with AFSVA Comptroller Directorate, who serves the same function at the base RMF, as the SSC Liaison.

AFSVA/SVF personnel currently performing the accounting duties for the nine Air Force Central Funds, received training Sept. 27 through Oct. 27.

Classes were geared at program managers (similar to activity managers at a base) and comptroller staff (similar to the NAF accounting office at a base).

Initial training produced favorable feedback to include: "It enlightens my fear of the unknown," and "Thanks — great info — I can't wait!"

Training for HQ ACC and the test bases using best delivery method.

Follow-up training

In addition to the on-site formal training, end-user

guides will be left at your base for reference.

The CSD MAJCOM teams are also available via telephone, email and fax should questions arise in the post-deployment phase.

Successful development of training requires constructive feedback from MAJCOM and base personnel in adapting lesson plans to provide applicable and unique training materials based on the needs of installation personnel.

Getting the most from the training

Training is an ongoing, ever evolving process that requires preparation, participation and practice by attendees.

Visit the AFSVA website, specifically the NAF-T section, and review the "Getting Ready and Pre-deploy Checklists" available at [https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/NAFT](https://www.r.afsv.af.mil/NAFT).

Apply the specifics of your activity or command experience to the items listed.

Another helpful step in preparation is to discuss specific office operations with co-workers and develop questions prior to training.

Their questions are probably similar to your own.

Once the training team arrives at your base/MAJCOM for formal on-site training, skills will develop and combine to provide baseline skills for the new processes.

All of these efforts will ease the new technology into our professional lives with greater success.

The key to successful communication is to keep personnel informed throughout the process.

This will ensure a quality end product and respond to the needs of our customers



**By Capt. James
Anderson**
47th Services Deputy
Commander

Laughlin Commander's Corner

From cradle to grave, everything in between

What an awe-some experience it's been over the last few months serving Laughlin as the temporary Director of the 47th Services Division.

In Services, we have a motto, "from cradle to grave and everything in between." Services touches every facet on any Air Force base and has a huge impact on the morale of the people.

I can honestly say I'm very proud of this and what we bring to the fight.

For some of you who are scratching your head and wondering, "such a wide breadth and Services really does all that?" Well Services is that diverse ...

From the cradle aspect, this is where we touch families by providing trusted, reliable and affordable child care for our patrons ensuring children have a safe and nurturing environment to grow and prosper.

In the "and everything in

between" arena, we offer leisure, food, fitness and other miscellaneous outlets. We cover this area at the golf course, bowling center, and the base pool. If you're bored, or if anyone ever told you to find a hobby, stop by wood skills. They're willing to assist you in this area.

The Fiesta Center offers a variety of classes and has something for everyone. Services also provides quality auto repair at our auto skills shop. Go by and have our certified personnel assist you with your

mechanical repair needs. Too busy? They'll pick up your vehicle, make the repairs, and deliver it back to your office. How's that for Service?

Hungry and need a delicious meal? Stop by Club XL, SilverWings, the Bowling Center, or even the dining facility to satisfy your appetite. As for fitness, do I need to say any more about the newly dedicated Losano Fitness Center?

As for the "grave" aspect, it's neither the most popular nor the most glamorous job of

Services, but it's a critical duty none the less. It's a service we owe our fellow warriors.

Services is responsible for making the house calls with our mission support representatives to discuss mortuary and burial entitlements with loved ones after a death.

Services also has oversight of the base honor guard and search and recovery team.

There you have it, Services in a nutshell.

Remember, Services is always here for you.

Club membership only a phone call away

By Jimmy Johnson
Air Force Services
Agency

Air Force Clubs, in conjunction with Chase Bank, has launched a tele-marketing campaign for the Air Force Club membership card. The goal is to simplify the club

membership application process, provide applicants a method of applying for club membership by "phoning in," and to increase the number of new members recruited.

Along with the convenience of applying over the phone, new club

members are automatically enrolled in the Military Free Cash Rewards program, free.

From Jan. 1 to March 31, 2006, members earn 4 percent cash back for every eligible dollar spent on base and earn 2 percent cash back for every

eligible dollar spent off base.

Along with Military Free Cash Rewards, members enjoy many benefits of Club membership, including reciprocal privileges at Air Force Clubs worldwide (whether Air Force Club members are TDY,

on vacation, or in the midst of a PCS move, they're welcomed in any Air Force Club), Members First discounts, Blue Star Program that waives finance charges when engaged in a military campaign and members-only programs.

Yokota Idol

They came, they saw ... they rocked the house

By 1st Lt. Ben
Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public
Affairs

In just a short few years, Yokota Idol has become quite the event, as evidenced by the crowd at the Yokota Air Base, Japan, Enlisted Club ballroom recently.

For the fourth year, the Enlisted Club hosted "Yokota Idol," a competition modeled after the hit show, "American Idol," where contestants sing versions of well-known songs and try to impress not just a crowd, but also a panel of judges.

The standing-room only crowd of 450 people was energized throughout the night from the performances of the contestants.

"I've been involved in the last three Yokota Idols, but this was my first time as the master-of-ceremonies," said Master Sgt. Kevin

“... Even with technical difficulties during the song, the crowd was singing and clapping their hands. It was just awesome to have that kind of reaction.”

– Jamie Montgomery, Yokota Idol contestant

Louchery, 374th Medical Group Independent Duty Program manager. "This was the strongest one as far as talent and participation. From the song selection to the actual performances this was just phenomenal."

"From the start of the show, the contestants were working the crowd and getting them involved as well," said Alan Armitage, acting assistant marketing director for the 374th Services Division.

One contestant, Guy Dillard, took the showmanship portion of the event to heart and provided his own dancer with a

coordinated routine for his show.

"Guy Dillard was a concert by himself," said Michael Byrd, special events coordinator for the Enlisted Club.

"I think I brought a sense of fun to the stage and the crowd enjoyed it as much as I did," said Mr. Dillard.

"I had a great time," said Jamie Montgomery. "When I sang 'Everytime I Close My Eyes' by Babyface the crowd really got into it. Even with technical difficulties during the song, the crowd was singing and clapping their hands. It was just awesome to have that kind of reaction."

"This is my first year doing this event," said Mr. Byrd. "But I do know this is our most successful event. It is growing by leaps and bounds year by year."

"We had to turn people away at the door since we were at capacity," Mr. Byrd said, "so we would like to be able to accommodate everyone in the future because we believe this is only going to get bigger and better next year."

"This is what services is all about," said Mr. Armitage. "We are here to support the troops and provide them with these types of opportunities."

First place went to Linda Sterling, who took home \$500 in prizes. Second place went to Mr. Montgomery, who took home \$300 in prizes and Mr. Dillard took home \$200 in third place prizes.

Edwards kicks off winter season with film, opportunities

By Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill
Edwards Air Force
Base, Calif., Public
Affairs

More than 100 people kicked off the winter season at the Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Base Theater recently with a free showing of an independent skiing and snowboarding film.

Outdoor Recreation and Warren Miller Entertainment combined efforts to present "Warren Miller's Higher Ground," a full-length feature documentary about winter sporting activities around the world.

"While we were preparing for the ski season we decided that we wanted something big to kick ski season off," said Ben Furqueron, 95th Services Division Outdoor Recreation director. "Warren Miller movies set the tone each year for ski season. A lot of people will watch his new movie each year and then pull out their skis and go."

Warren Miller films, known for their adrenaline-filled action sequences and breathtaking scenery, have been capturing the best of

winter sports for the past 56 years, said Lysa Berry, Warren Miller Entertainment Central and Southern California public relations director.

Outdoor Recreation also offers a variety of information and outings for people looking for excitement outdoors. This includes anything from ocean to mountain, from sea kayaking and white-water rafting to rock climbing and snow skiing.

Custom trips such as backwoods nature hikes are also available.

One of the people attending the

winter-time kick-off show liked the idea of having the Warren Miller movie shown on the base.

"A lot of people don't take advantage of the services that are available to us," said Barry Lutrell, 95th Mission Support Squadron unit deployment, security and training manager.

"This is one of the ways to garner interest in Outdoor Recreation."

The purpose of having the free show here is to "introduce people to the winter season," Mr. Furqueron said. "We start with skiing and when Edwards

people come in to the Outdoor Recreation building, they see all the other programs we offer.

One of the benefits of using Outdoor Recreation programs is the cost to users.

"When we go on our trips, people aren't paying for us, they're just paying for the actual expenses of the trip," he said. "Besides the cost, there is also the camaraderie. People attending meet others who are interested in the activity and participate together."



A sky view of holiday night lights

Charlie and Karen Smith (in character) get in on the holiday fun as they pack the Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Aero Club's Piper Warrior with gifts. The December night flights were a great way to view the Space Coast holiday lights from a different perspective. Photo by Nancy Watts

MacDill Flight Kitchen fast, friendly, delicious, too

By Nick Stubbs

MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Public Affairs

There's Burger King, Taco Bell and a few other fast-food restaurants on base, but for those in the hurry-up world along the flightline, the ultimate fast food stop is the MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Flight Kitchen.

Located in Hangar 2, the Flight Kitchen has a reputation of great, friendly service and a quality menu that has made it a sleeper lunch choice, even for those who have to travel across base.

"We have a pretty loyal following," said Master Sgt. Nicholas Rivernider, Flight Kitchen manager. "We have a lot of people who pretty much have to eat here because they can't leave the flightline or are flying out, but we also have people who come here just for the food we have."

What's hot on the menu? Burgers and fries, always, but taco salad is a hit and servicemembers craving it show up each Thursday, when the specialty is on the menu.

Staffed by four Airmen and five civilians, the Flight Kitchen is for military personnel only, though civilian employees on base with written permission who frequently fly are allowed to dine there.

One recent weekend, Sergeant Rivernider pulled a weekend shift to prepare 203 meals to support ground Soldiers on a training mission.

"That was pretty hectic," Sergeant Rivernider said. "We ended

up being short of supplies and had to go out and get what we needed quick to put them together."

One of the important functions of the kitchen is preparing in-flight meals for air crews who are in the air at meal time. Cold box lunches and hot food are available from a special menu. It may not be the ideal dining atmosphere at altitude in a KC-135, but having good eats aboard is always appreciated, said Sergeant Rivernider.

Senior Airman Kim Brenneman, like many of the staff members, transferred over from the dining facility, which means learning the way things are done in a different environment. But because the Flight Kitchen is closed on weekends, it also is a sort of "reward" for Airmen who were used to pulling the weekend shift at the dining facility.

After two months on the job, Airman Brenneman said "it's a nice change of pace; I like it here."

She also notes she is learning new skills, as things are done differently in this kitchen. She pointed out that it is a close-knit group that keeps close relationships with the customers.

"We are sort of known for being very

friendly with the customers," said Sergeant Rivernider.

The food may be fast but that should not be taken to mean greasy and fatty. Salads, baked potatoes, baked chicken breasts and a hot vegetable each day are part of the menu for those who would rather bypass the French fries, which are a favorite.

It's always busy at the Flight Kitchen, said Staff Sgt. Andre Ogalvie, who has been on staff for two years. "I love it."

But things can really heat up around CORONA and during other special events on base. The Flight Kitchen over the years likely has fed some high-flying VIPs and generals. Members of Central Command and Special Operations Command and their guests are frequent customers. Sergeant Rivernider said they may have even fed a few members of Air Force One.



The MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Flight Kitchen staff breaks after the lunch rush for a "family" portrait. Photo by Nick Stubbs

Kid's Korner entertains during Edwards Open House, Air Show



Cherish Sarmiento, 13, gives the bungee trampoline a twirl in the Kid's Korner of the 2005 Edwards Open House and Air Show. Photos by Senior Airman Jet Fabara



Four-month-old Shaylynn Baldwin smiles as she is given an Air Force teddy bear from one of the many vendors at the Open House and Air Show.

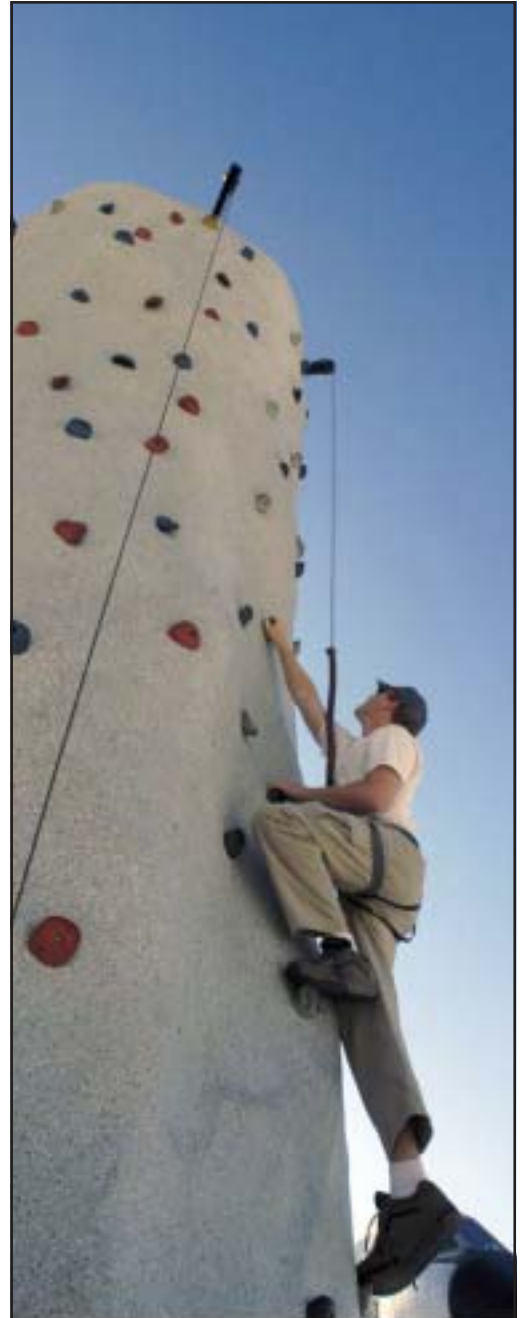
**By Senior Airman Jet Fabara
Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Public Affairs**

Although an array of various aircraft christened the skies of Edwards during the 2005 Open House and Air Show, most children were focused on the variety of activities available at the 95th Services Division Kid's Korner.

Services had eight different, free activities set up for children and adults in the Kid's Korner area Saturday and Sunday.

"There was an estimated 10,000 children who visited Kid's Korner at the air show," said Terry Stegman, 95th Services Division Community Center director. "We were glad to see the turnout for the Services' Kid's Korner section."

For next year's air show event, Ms. Stegman said, Services would definitely shoot for bigger and better events for the children.



Scott Gillette stretches to reach the top of the Kid's Korner climbing wall during the recent Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Open House and Air Show. Eight activities in total were available at the Kid's Korner for both children and adults.

SAP provides peace of mind for parents, fun for children

By Marla Holbert
21st Services Squadron

A challenge parents often face is meshing work schedules with their child's school schedule. A program at the R.P. Lee Youth Center at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., may help alleviate some of that stress.

The center's School Age Program provides before-and after-school supervision to children whose parents are stationed at Peterson and Schriever Air Force bases, as well as the Cheyenne Mountain Complex.

Annette Gervais, the youth center's SAP coordinator, said the center provides a myriad of age-appropriate activities for students, plus breakfast in the morning and a snack in the afternoon.

Several rooms throughout the facility are designated specifically for the SAP program, each offering different themes, such as art, science and construction.

Jeanette Rainey, a community readiness consultant, said her nine-year-old daughter loves the program. "I have more confidence in the youth center than I do with the after school programs offered through her school," she said.

Miss Gervais said the program is not limited to days students attend school — it includes winter breaks, spring breaks and snow days (at a slightly higher fee), as well. The program also runs through the summer and is almost always at capacity.

Two local schools, Remington Elementary in District 49, and Monroe Elementary in District 11,

both have transportation agreements with the center. Monroe Elementary students are transported to the youth center via a District 11 bus. At Remington Elementary, Youth Center staff use government vans to drop off and pick up children.

"It works out great," Ms. Rainey said. "I expect that during the winter months it will definitely be a bonus because if school is delayed or closed, and the base is not, I know I still have care available."

Sheila Ruuti, an operations clerk at the Child Development Center, said her six-year-old son has participated in the program for two years. She said they tried other before-and after-school programs downtown but did not have the "comfort level" that they have at the youth center.

Ready to carve

Leo Jackson, a food service employee with the Satellite Dish Dining Facility at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., cuts roast beef before the dining hall opens for its holiday meal, which hundreds of Airmen attended.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Brnum



Hanscom Club uses experience to cater to customers

By 2nd Lt. Geoff Buteau
Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., Public Affairs

A combined century of food and beverage experience now operates The Club at Hanscom.

Carl Amici, a chef in and around the Boston area for about 20 years, and David Pignone, a Union Square restaurant owner in Somerville, Mass., for 40 years with experience in night club and convenience store entrepreneurship, now contribute their skills to The Club's kitchen.

They join manager David Bovio's 40 years in the food and beverage industry to round out a group dedicated to improving The Club.

Paul Hartigan, 66th Services Squadron Community Support flight chief, said keeping members of the Hanscom community on base for lunch is one of the many goals of the new staff.

The Club leadership hopes their new sandwich menu can help them achieve that goal. Mr. Pignone, with experience in sandwich-making during his convenience store days, said, "I've always said if you open up a sandwich shop, just don't open up any sandwich shop."

Mr. Pignone said he could lay the greatest cold cut on a piece of bread, but if the bread isn't right, "it won't taste right."

"All of us agreed on that," Mr. Amici said. "You need the good bread."

One of Mr. Bovio's goals is to raise Club membership. He said the Club lacked membership from younger servicemembers and he and his staff changed dinner and lunch menus to target those additional customers.

"We're getting a lot of compliments," he said about the response to the changes.

He described the restaurant business as finicky because personal tastes determine what succeeds and fails.

"You have to find out what the tastes of your clientele are," he said.

Mr. Bovio believes good food with reasonable prices, consistency and variety are the necessary ingredients to the client satisfaction recipe. Striving for variety means trying new entrees everyday.

"If you have specifics and you want us to try something new, give us your recipe; we'll gladly try something out," Mr. Bovio said. "The chefs are always willing to try something different."

The Club offers 10 to 12 "old standbys" like New England Scrod and prime rib in addition to the three to five daily specials. "So there's always something here that you can like," he said.

Mr. Bovio said they are constantly experimenting. While they depend on the standard menu to keep the guests coming, the specials offer customers the opportunity to try new things.

Mr. Bovio said his plans for The Club's success are nowhere near completion.

"It's always a work in progress," he said. "If you're really satisfied with something, it's time to move on to some other place or do something else because there's always room for improvement."

Messrs. Bovio, Pignone and Amici are excited about applying their breadth of experience to improving The Club.

"With all that experience and Dave's leadership, I think it will all come about," Mr. Pignone said.

Mr. Amici said, "The funny part is that we're still learning."

"I think we all enjoy cooking, we all enjoy dealing with people," Mr. Bovio said. "That's pretty much it; we love what we do."



Hot potatoes

The Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Child Development Center's Picnic in the Park featured several activities for the CDC children and their families including a potato sack race. From left are Tamara Kelly, Tianna Gonzales and Marcus Vidad-Bueno. Photo by Alan Boedeker

On the front lines of disaster

509th Services Airmen aid Hurricane Katrina cleanup



Master Sgt. Robert Jackson, 509th Services Squadron, removes ceiling materials damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Airmen also helped set up a dining facility and temporary commissary in Keesler's community center. Courtesy photo



Airmen from Whiteman and technical school students from Keesler Air Force Base load a boat onto a trailer. Courtesy photo

By Senior Airman Joe Laddan
Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Public Affairs

The waters had already receded by the time they arrived at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., in a C-130 Hercules armed with work gloves, cartons of bleach, tools and a willing attitude. Keesler and the surrounding towns of Biloxi, Ocean Springs, and Gulfport lay in the ruins of Hurricane Katrina's onslaught when 18 Airmen from Whiteman

AFB, Mo., came to the Biloxi Bay area. The shock and horror were memories, but the recovery had just begun. "You could tell they were hit hard," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Greensage, the 509th Services Squadron NCO in charge of mortuary affairs. "I was like, 'whoa, where do we begin?'"

The Whiteman Airmen joined 180 services troops from other Air Force bases, along with the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency to help bring relief to Air Force members and Department of Defense civilians assigned to Keesler. "Everybody was trying to help everybody," Staff Sgt. Loren Van Pelt said. "It seemed like the community and military pulled together to get everybody back on their feet."

When Hurricane Katrina swept through Keesler on Aug. 30, flood waters damaged Keesler's commissary and base exchange, and

waters also swept through its dining facility. Many Airmen and civilians remained on the base as well as technical school students, who were told they would not graduate. A new dining facility and commissary was needed.

Then the services Airmen went to work. First they spent 10 hours decontaminating Keesler's dining facility with green scrub pads and bleach, then they set up a temporary commissary and base exchange at

Keesler's community center which made it through the storm mostly unscathed.

"Anything the water touched we had to disinfect," said Sergeant Greensage, who was taking his son to a birthday party when he learned about the deployment Sept. 3. The Whiteman Airmen were given only four hours that day to prepare.

While they were assigned to help Keesler recover,

Continued on next page



Youth center ground broken

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held recently for a \$7.93 million, 34,000-square-foot youth center being built at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Hefting shovels for the groundbreaking, from right, are Jerry Stanfill, 37th Services Division director; Col. Stan Chase, 37th TRW vice commander; Col. Mary Kay Hertog, 37th Training Wing commander; Ken Singel, working on the contract through the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks City-Base; Col. Thelma Hales, 37th Mission Support Group commander; and Kim Henke of Weston Solutions. Photo by Robbin Cresswell

Whiteman Airmen aid Keesler

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much of their work would be outside the base's gates in the flood-damaged towns in the Bay of Biloxi.

The foul odor emitting from the homes was almost unbearable.

"It was definitely a smell that not everybody can handle," Sergeant Greensage said. "It was a smell far worse than some of my mortuary cases."

Black mold, spoiled food, and the bodies of dead pets produced the foul aroma as the Airmen collected debris and removed contaminated household items from houses along the coast.

It was just one obstacle the Airmen dealt with as they moved the items out of the homes and onto roadsides. At first the Airmen aided the homes of people who worked on or had ties to Keesler.

But many more needed their help. Mississippi citizens whose homes were ravaged by Katrina also called on the Airmen for aid.

"We didn't turn down any jobs," Sergeant Greensage said.

"Some of them would break down and start crying," Sergeant Van Pelt said. "Some lost their childhood friends. They had a normal life and they had to start over."

"It gave me a greater appreciation for what I have," said 2nd Lt. Megan Davenport, a services team leader during the deployment. "You don't realize what you have until you lose it. It was hard to watch. These people lost everything." Sergeant Van Pelt said their efforts touched the lives of many.

A father of one coastal family had to have a leg amputated from injuries suffered during the hurricane. Jewel Hogan-Zimmerman, an Ocean Springs resident thanked the Airmen in a letter for their efforts during the three week deployment.

Other Airmen, like Staff Sgt. Shawanda Draper, helped provide housing for Airmen augmenting



More than 180 Services Airmen from Air Force bases nationwide helped move debris from homes along the Biloxi-Gulf Coast region in September. Courtesy photo

Joint Task Force Katrina, technical school students, FEMA employees and Red Cross members. If housing was unavailable, the Airmen searched the local area for hotels and alternate housing, Sergeant Draper said.

The Airmen said the experience changed their lives.

"We were proud to do anything to help them regain a sense of normalcy and start to rebuild their lives," Lieutenant Davenport said.

Moody houses hurricane evacuees

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Busbice
347th Services Squadron

Since the beginning of Hurricane season, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., has played host to more than 200 Florida evacuees fleeing their homes, in search of temporary housing. From the military members themselves, to their dependents and even their pets – Moody AFB and the Freedom II Fitness Center proved to be hospitable and accommodating to the needs of our fellow military members in need.

Many Moody AFB personnel worked

overtime and diligently to make certain each evacuee had a place to sleep that was clean and comfortable but most importantly a piece of mind and a place to call home temporarily.

From the extended hours at the dining facility to the home-made goodies brought in by Moody AFB personnel and their families, it was done with kindness and warmth. After all, they were our family, even though we may not have known their names or seen their faces before the hurricane season.

Charlie Severance, a retired chief

petty officer, who had to evacuate his home in Gulfport, Miss., was fortunate enough to find an available room at the Moody Inn. Determined to provide relief to other Gulf Coast victims, Mr. Severance began a crusade after the storm subsided to deliver donated clothing and non-perishable food items to his neighbors back home in Gulfport that were still awaiting Red Cross assistance. After learning that ill patients were being placed on dirty and unsanitary tables to receive medical care, he contacted the Moody Inn staff

and asked if they had any clean linen that they would be able to donate. Excited to help, the Moody Inn staff collected more than 800 pieces of clean linen for the ravaged Gulf Coast region, scoured their homes for items they could personally donate and even helped Mr. Severance load the trailer with hope and help packed inside.

As with any military operation, this was a joint effort by all involved. The 347th Civil Engineer Squadron ensured there was electricity for personal DVD players and alarm

clocks; the 347th Logistic Readiness Squadron ensured each evacuee had a cot and a clean sleeping bag to sleep in and the 347th Communications Squadron created five new phonelines within the Freedom II Fitness Center, allowing phone calls to be made to loved ones.

The 347th Services Squadron provided round-the-clock staffing at the shelter and much appreciated amenities to the evacuees with bright smiles and the exceptional can-do attitudes for our fellow Airmen in need.



Lackland Outdoor Adventure Center holds grand opening

The new Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Outdoor Adventure Center held grand opening ceremonies recently at the former Kelly Golf Course club house at 309 Westover St., featuring paintball competition, disc golf and archery. A disc golf course is already open on LOAC, the former Kelly golf course, and a bicycle dirt track will open soon. Manuel Basaldua was presented a bay boat for the weekend as winner of the "Name the Park" Contest. Ann Gilkey, manager of the Lackland Saddle Club, gives an arriving Airman a ceremonies program and "goodie bag" in the LOAC office, also the outdoor recreation rentals office. Photo by Robbin Cresswell

Carswell Honor Guard wins AFA Citation

By Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bailey
301st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 301st Fighter Wing Honor Guard from Carswell Air Reserve Base, Texas, took center stage — not as presenter, but as the recipient of the Air Force Association's the 2005 Citation of Honor.

This annual honor — the association's highest achievement award — recognizes outstanding contributions by an individual or group in the development of aerospace power.

"This is an outstanding award recognizing one of the Air Force's best time-honored traditions," said Col. Max Mendoza, 301st Mission Support Group commander. "I am so very proud of the men and women who serve in this wing's honor guard unit. Their accomplishments and their phenomenal achievements with both the military and civilian communities have not



The 301st Fighter Wing Honor Guard from Carswell Air Reserve Base, Texas, recently received the Air Force Association's Citation of Honor for the outstanding contribution of an organization to the development of aerospace power for the betterment of mankind. Pictured at the annual AFA awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. are, from left, Col. Bill Schauffert, Vice Commander, 301st Fighter Wing; Master Sgt. Ross Wood, Superintendent, 301st Honor Guard; Tech. Sgt. Udrika Baldwin, 301st Honor Guard member; and Stephen Condon, AFA Chairman of the Board. Courtesy photo

gone unnoticed and are finally being rewarded on a tremendous scale."

AFA chairman Pat Condon remarked how the honor guard has led the way in outstanding performances and in displaying a sterling image in regard to national defense and aerospace.

He said the honor guard was hands down the best choice for this year's award.

Five-year honor guard member and lead trainer Tech. Sgt. Udrika Baldwin said being on the honor guard was the best thing he could have done for his military career.

"This award is an honor to all of us who serve -- a true recognition of the hard work and dedication each team member contributes every day," the sergeant said.

Notable accomplishments cited by the AFA award committee included the honor guard taking responsibility as the lead training element for the Joint Service Honor Guard. In this capacity, the team supervised and performed in more than 1,900 military funeral honors at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery and at local cemeteries.

"The 301st honor guard continues to make impressive and significant contributions to the success of its honor guard team as well as its outstanding reflection of the Air Force Reserve Command as a whole," said Maj. Gen. David Tanzi, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander.

The AFA presented the honor guard the award in Washington, D.C., at their annual awards ceremony.



Mmm...good!

Baker Roger Dubois squeezes whipped topping on a holiday favorite, while Chefs Hilma Valdez and Vikki Billiter prepare dishes sure to please Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Riverside Dining visitors. Holiday meals included roast turkey, steamship round of beef, baked ham and all the fixings. Photo by Jim Laviska

New visiting quarters opens at Nellis

By Jennifer Vollmer
Nellis Air Force Base,
Nev., Public Affairs

After more than four years of planning, designing and building, the 349 room state-of-the-art Nellis Inn Visitor's Quarters is now accepting customers.

The Nellis Inn is open and ready for business.

This building is the largest and most modern of its type in Air Combat Command, said Cathy Fierstein, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., lodging manager. The facility's price tag of approximately \$35 million includes all design, construction and furnishing costs.

The addition of the new VQ has doubled the number of beds available for visiting Airmen. There are now 1,100 beds, and Ms. Fierstein said she hopes this will alleviate the overwhelming need for so many off-base accommodations.

All active-duty members and retirees are authorized to stay at the

new VQ on a space available basis. There are rooms set aside for students of the Weapons School and participants of Red Flag.

Single and married Airmen without children can also stay at the Inn. Rates will remain the same as with other VQs in ACC.

On average, Ms. Fierstein said she expects an annual average of 85 percent occupancy for all the rooms managed by Nellis lodging. There are 20 other inns at Nellis, including Union Plaza, which is next to the new VQ, and Warrior Inn located by the Base Exchange.

Union Plaza and Warrior Inn offer single room accommodations, whereas all rooms at Nellis Inn are set-up to be double occupancy. Each room in the VQ offers two of almost everything — beds, separate phones lines, coffee makers and sinks. Rooms also come equipped with a refrigerator and microwave.

In addition to increasing the



Senior Airman Enid J-Ellis, 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron, Dover Air Force Base, Del., receives her room key from front desk clerk Francine Anderson, wife of Master Sgt. Carl Anderson, 57th Maintenance Squadron. Airman J-Ellis is among the first to stay in the new visiting quarters here. Photo by Airman 1st Class Tina Waugh

number of beds, Nellis Inn was built with sustainability in mind and reduction in repair and maintenance costs.

The lobby floors and check-in counters are made of natural stone which increases durability. Sun filtering MechoShades, which have been proven to help lower energy costs by keeping the building cool, have been installed on all windows.

A new feature included in the new VQs is a branch of Rickenbacker's Coffee Shop. The

coffee shop is a signature brand of Air Force Clubs.

The inclusion of a Rickenbacker's Coffee Shop will become standard in all new VQs, said Mark Blais, Air Force Services Agency business operations specialist.

There is also a small convenience store in the lobby that will carry travel items, sodas and microwavable meals available for guests 24 hours a day.

Other features of Nellis Inn include eight laundry rooms with a combined total of 48 washer and dryer sets, a big

screen television in the lobby and a business center furnished with computers, printers and a fax machine.

The opening of the new VQ has also positively impacted the community surrounding the base. Forty new jobs were created to support the new facility and employment is available to those who are qualified, not just military dependents.

"All-in-all, this facility meets, if not beats, the quality that people would find at a mid-level hotel off base," said Ms. Fierstein.

Patrick says, 'We care'

Program shows how much Patrick cares for family members

By Lori Peppers
45th Services Squadron

Throughout Air Force history, it is a reality that airmen, whether deployed to a war zone, or an extended tour of duty away from home, worry about their loved ones while they are away.

Today, because of the newly implemented "We Care" program at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., their level of concern is eased tremendously. "We Care" is a booklet containing a compilation of coupons totaling \$810 in value. It is distributed to the family of deployed members by the unit's First Sergeant, and represents a variety of free items that can be redeemed at base Services facilities. Each coupon is good for one free or discounted item or activity.

"The program is important to demonstrate that we care about the family members of deployed personnel, while their loved ones are away," said Lt. Col. Mark McCullohs, 45th Services Squadron commander.

Commending those in the Squadron who answered his call to offer coupon items, he said, "Our activity managers stepped up to the plate when we asked them to give more."

The Services facilities represented in the "We Care" program are on base and include the Arts and Crafts Center, Auto Hobby Shop, Golf Course, Rocket Lanes Bowling Center, The Tides Collocated Club and Outdoor Recreation.

In addition to the booklet, tickets to the Metro Cinema Café in Melbourne, Fla., are distributed to family members of deployed personnel through the ITT on base.

This is the brainchild of Chuck Nolan, 45th Services Marketing and Publicity director.

He said, "'We Care' was a way in which the facilities in Services could come together and provide a means of support for the family members left behind by their deploying spouse."

So far, the program has been distributed to the families of their deployed personnel by First Sergeants Master Sgts. Dale Vicos of 45th Security Forces, and Carl Samples of 45th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"With over \$800 worth of coupons, it's a great program if the family member will take advantage of it," Sergeant Vicos said.

Family member Monique Molina was excited to receive her Services coupon book. She and three-year old Analia have recently enjoyed a weekend night out at the Bowling Center – and her daughter discovered a new fascination.



Mechanic Jim Winings completes oil change for family member Monique Molina, wife of Staff Sgt. Aldo Molina, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron. Mr. Winings' wife, Senior Airman Gloria Winings is an X-Ray tech with the 45th Medical Squadron. The Auto Hobby Shop is one of six facilities within the Services Squadron participating in the "We Care" program. Photo by Nancy Watts

Her husband, Staff Sgt. Aldo Molina, heavy equipment operator with the 45th CES, is deployed to Iraq through February 2006.

"I couldn't believe all that was offered to us," Mrs. Molina said, "My husband encouraged me to use the Auto Hobby Center; it helped him to be a little less concerned about our safety on the road."

Nancy Wilberg, director of the Arts and Crafts Center, which includes the Auto Hobby Shop, recognizes the program as "a great incentive for family members to use the base Services. We are glad to be there to take care of the family's auto maintenance – because we care."

Serving with honor

Honor Guard shows Misawa what it means to serve

By Staff Sgt. Vann Miller
Misawa Air Base, Japan, Public Affairs

Ceremony and pageantry are an integral part of military customs. So, within the first days of basic training, each troop who enters into the armed service learns the intricacies of marching drills and moving in a formation.

There are a few servicemembers who receive all of the training and ritual and take it to the next level. They are the base honor guard.

Confident, stoic and professional are just a few of the words used to describe the honor guard. If seen in a formation, their moves are well timed and deliberate. Ask any member and they'll say, it's only through training and dedication that they maintain their persona of being seen as the best.

"Being a part of the honor guard is a prestigious duty, and I take pride in being a part of it," said Senior Airman Zenetra Thigpen, 373rd Support Squadron. "I enjoy the

structure and discipline."

The honor guard members spend hours training and learning the proper moves and timing for all the drill performances and details they do. As the symbol of military excellence, they are versed in reveille, retreats and cordons, and flag folding.

Continued on next page





Honky Tonk time at Lackland

Basic trainees wave their "Lackland Lasers" (flashlights) in approval as country music artist Dierks Bentley belts out a song during the recent Spirit of America Tour concert at the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Amphitheater. "It went well," said Al Conyers, Services events commercial sponsorship manager with the 37th Mission Support Group. After Dierks Bentley, Cross Canadian Ragweed performed during the free concert that attracted an estimated 8,500 to 10,000 people, including more than 3,000 basic military trainees. Photo by Alan Boedeker

Misawa Honor Guard serves with honor

continued from page 18

"It takes a lot of dedication and time," said Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Dearing, 301st Intelligence Squadron, and honor guard member since 2004. "Most individuals who see the honor guard see us as the best the military has to provide. When we are performing, we are not just Airmen, we are a complete representation of the Air Force."

While each ceremony requires the same level of professionalism, there are some that stand out more for different honor guardsmen.

"Retirement ceremonies are the most important of all," said Airman Thigpen about the significance of the ceremonies. "We represent the

Air Force as a whole. We show the appreciation and admiration to that retiring Airman for their dedication, sacrifice and time served protecting our country."

The honor guard keeps Air Force traditions alive, said Senior Airman Jason Dearing, 301st IS. These customs and traditions help to present and maintain a disciplined Airman and professional image.

Though sharpening an individual's skills in drill is one to practice with the honor guard, it is not the most important reason to join, said one of their members.

"To be a part of something great is why I joined (the honor guard),"

said Airman Dearing. "To give back to the military community for what it has done for me."

Airman Dearing said he read a quote in a local paper that gave him something to think about. "If you were put on the stand in a court of law for serving your country, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" — Sergeant Peter Towse, U.S. Army.

Serving in the honor guard never gets old, said Airman Thigpen.

"The more I do the higher I hold my head," she added. "It gives me a true sense of pride when I put on that uniform."

Nellis Child Development Center best in Air Combat Command

By Carolynn Blinkinsop
99th Services Squadron

The hard work and dedication in providing exceptional child care programming at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Child Development Center has been recognized: they are the best in Air Combat Command.

Recognizing parents' needs at Nellis, the CDC has made it its mission to create programs that meet the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of children, while ensuring their charges feel secure and are protected in a caring environment.

Services are available for chil-

dren ages six weeks to five years old and include before and after school kindergarten care, part-day preschool programs, and full-day and hourly child care.

Recognition as the best in ACC does not come effortlessly. All aspects of CDC are evaluated, to include program initiatives, management and customer satisfaction, financial management and annual inspections.

"We have reached this level of excellence because of the dedication of our staff, even at the lowest level, to support and care for the children and their families," said Kim Pasi, director of CDC I.



Molly Hayes (right), director of the Child Development Center, examines worms with a group of children. The Nellis AFB CDCs were awarded best in Air Combat Command for outstanding child care. Photo by Airman 1st Class Tina Waugh

Also, the implementation of a standardized training program has allowed for continuity across the board.

"An employee who has moved in from another base can essentially pick up where they left off given that the training is now the same," said Ms. Pasi.

"This has fostered and supported continued growth and constant improvement, not to mention the benefit the parents receive when they know the staff has been trained properly."

The CDC has many unique programs specially designed for their

children. One in particular is the Foster Grandparents program – grandparents who volunteer their time to feed infants and rock them, or spend time playing with the other children.

In addition, there are special education teachers and an aide on staff to provide in-house services for children with special needs.

"We feel it is better to teach the child in our learning environment," said Molly Hayes, director of CDC II. "We have the tools to support whatever they need."

Another program, Give Parents a Break, is intended to provide relief for

parents and give them a chance to do something for themselves. The CDC also hosts unique dinner get-togethers so families and children can get to know each other better.

"My goal is to maximize children's potential and create an environment that lets them excel at their strengths while balancing and supporting their weaknesses," said Ms. Hayes. "It is important for parents to spend time with children in their child care environment so they know it's valued."

Nellis Teen, Family Talent brings out stars

By Jennifer Vollmer
Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Public Affairs

The base theater was lit up by stage lights, music, singing, dancing and acting during the annual Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Family and Teen Talent Show.

This year, the show consisted of 13 acts and drew a crowd of more than 300 people.

The competition was comprised of eight vocal acts, four dance acts and one piano solo. The majority of contestants were veterans of the Nellis Family and Teen Talent Show.

Staff Sgt. Angela Weiss, 99th Civil Engineer Squadron information manager, performed the National Anthem to open the show.

Intermission entertainment was provided by hula dancers from Doreen Baclayon's community center hula class and Elvis impersonator Tech. Sgt. Rod Sager, a pavement and construction craftsman from the 820th RED HORSE Squadron.

Competing was the Kessel family who have been a staple at the show for the last two years. Staff Sgt. Evonne Kessel, 99th Medical Group NCO in charge of ultrasound, and her four children sang "The ABCs of Love."

Additionally, Sergeant Kessel and her 17-year-old son Christopher performed a jazzy version of "Mocking Bird."

Other members of the Kessel family showcased their singing abilities during competition.

Kayla Kessel, the youngest member of the family, twirled a lace-rimmed umbrella as she sang "Zipadee Do Dah." Teenagers

Kendra and Carrisa Kessel harmonized with one another as they sang "Walking on Sunshine."

All Air Force Teen and Family Talent Shows are judged by three people. Each judge gives a score of 30 points or less. Contestants can receive up to 10 points for technical excellence, 10 points for showmanship and 10 points for material interpretation.

According to Kat Pauley, Community Center director, final scores are not released to the contestants. She said instead of releasing scores, judges are encouraged to write comments to help contestants improve their performances for next year's competition.

Judging this year's competition was Lt. Col. Russell Cutting, 99th Services Squadron commander. He was joined by Ellen Reighley from Las Vegas Family Music Centers and Graham Berry, a local Las Vegas entertainer.

In February, the Community Center will be hosting the annual Base Talent Show. Unlike the Family and Teen Talent Show, which is only open to ages 5 to 18 and family groups, the base version of the competition is open to any active duty or dependant regardless of age.

The Nellis Family and Teen Talent Show is a single part of a much larger competition. Video tapes of members who win locally are sent to Air Force Services Headquarters where contestants compete with other Air Force winners worldwide, said Ms. Pauley.

Results for the Air Force-wide competition will be released in January.



Staff Sgt. Angela Weiss, 99th Civil Engineer Squadron information manager, opens the competition with the National Anthem. Sergeant Weiss is the Nellis Air Force Base selectee to compete in the Air Force-wide talent competition for a spot on the 2006 Tops In Blue team. Photo by Airman 1st Class Tina Waugh

Sergeant Weiss is the Nellis Air Force Base selectee for the 2006 Tops in Blue Competition.

She will compete for a spot in the 2006 cast.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to compete at the Air Force level," said Sergeant Weiss.

Breaking ground**18th Civil Engineers, 18th Services plan construction of new Karing Kennel**

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Kadena Air Base,
Japan Public Affairs

Recently, Air Force Services Director Arthur Myers and Kadena Air Base, Japan, leaders held a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$2 million hotel, but it's not a normal hotel.

Plans are underway to construct a new Karing Kennel

next to the Shima No Ko Child Care Center near Gate 3.

Construction of the new kennel, paid for with local non-appropriated funds, is projected to start in February and end one year later. It will replace the current kennel that opened as a military working dog training center more than 40 years ago.

Besides adding 14 dog runs and 12 catteries (80 runs

and 20 catteries total), the new kennel will also have three grooming stations, six exercise yards with wading pools, and a customer service and resale area.

"Providing a new facility will improve the quality of life for the pets we care for," said Tracy Perez, 18th Services Squadron Animal Health Care Manager. "More important, it will provide

peace of mind to the pet owners who are supporting the mission, whether it be deployment, temporary duty, emergency leave, or for the quieter times, on vacation.

"The new facility will allow pets to be inside a climate controlled area, just like being at home," said Perez. "The wading pools were an added bonus to assist in the fun loving times they're

able to enjoy while being away from home, and also provide relief on a hot summer day."

The current Karing Kennel is located straight outside Kadena's Gate 3 along the border of Chibana housing. Last year the kennel boarded more than 3,000 and groomed more than 800 pets for members of the Okinawa military community.

***Spreading cheer, sharing smiles***

Senior Airman Tess Pottratz, fitness specialist with the 455th Expeditionary Services Squadron, joins local villagers in a photo opportunity during an Adopt-A-Village visit recently in Karezgay Province, Afghanistan. Airman Pottratz and other Airmen visited with Afghans as part of the humanitarian relief effort. More than 1,200 pounds of winter clothes, blankets, school supplies and toys were distributed to the local village. Airman Pottratz, a native of Amherst, N.Y., is deployed to Bagram from McChord Air Force Base, Wash. Photo courtesy Stars & Stripes

Festive preparations

Below, Staff Sgt. Tina Ross carves vegetables for the holiday festivities at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. She is assigned to the 36th Services Squadron. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo Jr.

Right, Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Bettisworth (left) and Airman 1st Class Melissa Cordero make vegetable show pieces for the holiday festivities. They are assigned to the 36th Services Squadron.



Luke wood shop makes upgrades

By James Nowicki
Wood skills shop instructor
Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

The 56th Services Squadron Wood Skills Shop at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., has a new craftsman, new equipment and expanded hours.

Barry Richardson, the newest member of the team, has years of experience in wood crafting to help those interested in woodworking projects.

Also added to the shop is new equipment, including an oscillating drum sander, wood turning lathe, rail style and raised panel bits for cabinet door making and more.

Upgraded equipment also includes a new drill chuck, router table top and Mast-R-Lift insert for precision adjustment of bits. The shop also offers finer grit papers for the timesaver sander.

Also available for use are highly accurate and easy to use uni-fences on both table saws. All blade bits are kept sharpened for cleaner cuts.

*Amidst the ruins left by
Hurricane Katrina, this
Services member's life was
put back together by ...*

Airman angels to the rescue

By Terri Gonzalez
81st Services Squadron Marketing
Specialist
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Never, in my worst nightmare could I have imagined being a victim of the infamous 30-foot tidal surge caused by Hurricane Katrina.

I evacuated inland the day before the storm came ashore. When I returned to my neighborhood immediately after the storm, Katrina was still finishing her devastating acts of unkindness.

After maneuvering around the new land-based shrimp boats I was in complete shock to see my house in such disarray.

It actually looked as if it, and my "stuff" (its all just stuff remember), had become a washing machine filled with mud, tree limbs, leaves and debris, on a five hour cycle.

Like so many others along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I became "homeless" overnight. The feeling is indescribable.

What do I do next? Where will I go? How will I clean up this catastrophic mess?

After sifting through the filth for a few days, with tears streaming

down my face, I learned there were teams of volunteers coming from other bases to help out their fellow "Service" members.

By chance my office happened to be one of their first stops. As they offered to help me in any way they could, the tears began to flow again. I couldn't believe they were going to help me in such a huge way.

It began the very next morning — a Saturday! A team of 16 volunteers from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., Andrews AFB, Md. and Whiteman AFB, Mo., followed me to my devastated neighborhood. They were prepared with gloves, shovels, masks, and even meals ready to eat!

I've never seen such hard workers in my life. They worked for nearly three days on my house, completely gutting the debris, cabinets, appliances and even the sheetrock.

They even found a missing baby turtle, who we named Trooper. The poor little turtle had survived the flood and had been living in the house in the middle of the debris.

There is no way I could have tackled the job alone. All of my

neighbors, who would normally help me out, were busy cleaning up their own rubble.

We did have a little fun while working, jamming out to some tunes, and grilling some burgers — a welcome treat after all of the MREs!

After the team was finished with my house, they eagerly moved on to help some of my neighbors. None of the team members ever complained about anything. Not even the smell of a 50 pound bag of rotten dog food! They just brushed off their wings and went to work.

I think about this army of angels every day, especially when I go back to what is left of my house. How can I ever thank them enough?

They say out of everything bad comes something good. The good for me was meeting and working beside the men and women from Luke, Andrews and Whiteman AFB, who gave so tirelessly of themselves to bring a glimmer of hope to so many people who were feeling hopeless.



Down with the old; up with the new



Left photo: Tech. Sgt. Ray Urbina takes apart the door frame of a temporary lodging tent to make way for a new Services facility. Sergeant Urbina is assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Bottom photo: Airmen from the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Ali Base, Iraq, are building concrete forms for a new aerobics area. The work is part of a new Services facility project.



Project Wizard offers crafts, storytime

What a hoot: Children made owl puppets during the storytime and crafts event at the RAF Mildenhall library recently as part of Project Wizard. Sixteen children attended and had the opportunity to glue and color their puppets. Michelle Deleo and Danielle Huston, both 100th Services Squadron Library employees, read stories to children and help them create different crafts. Storytime is held Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Photo by Karen Abeyasekere

Snapped around Services photo page



Operation Christmas Drop

Santa and his helpers — Senior Master Sgt. Peter Tetreault and Rose San Nicolas — push carts full of holiday donations out of the commissary at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The donated food items were used in this year's Operation Christmas Drop, a 53-year-old tradition. C-130 Hercules aircraft from Yokota Air Base, Japan, flew to Andersen, loaded up the donated gifts and "delivered" them via parachute to remote Micronesian islands. Sergeant Tetreault is with the 36th Services Squadron and Mrs. San Nicolas is the commissary store manager. Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie Davis III

Fall family fun at Lackland

Justin Hunt is decked out in a Spongebob Squarepants outfit as he paints a Halloween pumpkin during the Fall Harvest Festival that attracted 442 family members to the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Youth Center. "We had a great turnout, and it was a great day," said Lucy Forcum, Lackland Youth Programs director. Hundreds of Team Lackland family members attended special fall events at the Youth Activities Center and Freedom Chapel. Photo by Robbin Cresswell



Talking with Santa

Patrick Colucci talks with Santa Claus at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, base library during a puppet show production of the 'Twas the Night Before Christmas in Kittyhawk Center. Mr. Colucci worked with puppeteer Joe Burke of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center to perform the holiday show for an audience of military family members. Mr. Colucci and Mr. Burke are former base librarians. Photo by Spencer Lane

Gunfighters two-step to free country music concert

Country superstar entertains, thanks Gunfighters for service



By Senior Airman Sergio Aguirre
Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Public Affairs

More than 400 Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Gunfighters cheered when country singer Joe Diffie approached the microphone recently in Hangar 201 for a free concert. The entertainer arrived as part of the "Spirit of America Tour 2005."

"I'm very happy to be here and perform for all of you," said Mr. Diffie. "America is proud of you and appreciates your service."

Those in attendance included

many long-time fans of the country superstar and a few who knew little about country music or Mr. Diffie. Despite this, the show was entertaining for all and came at just the right time.

"I thought the music was pretty good and I came here just to listen to some of his classic songs," said Michelle MacBride, 366th Services Squadron. "I think we had a great turnout and a very diverse crowd of people who may not have been familiar with country music, but still had a great time."

Mr. Diffie began the evening by signing autographs

and taking pictures with fans before he began talking with them about their lives and his music.

"I thought it was really nice of him to take the time to talk with us and sign our posters," said Airman 1st Class Amanda Savagno, 366th Fighter Wing. "I'm a big fan, and this was a great opportunity for me."

"This is my third tour with the Spirit of America. It's always a pleasure for me to work with military members, because they are so respectful," said Mr. Diffie. "It's really amazing to see how young these troops are; they have a great responsibility

at a young age. Yet, it feels great to know they are the ones protecting my freedom."

Mr. Diffie enjoyed performing for the crowd and giving back to those he feels give so much of themselves to others.

"I was really happy to come here and give these guys a break for once," said Mr. Diffie. "I wanted them to come out and enjoy the show and be able to relax for a little bit."

Not only did Mr. Diffie put on a show for the crowd, but he also allowed members of the audience to perform with him. One such

crowd member was Senior Airman Israel Poire, 366th Security Forces Squadron. During a performance of a signature Joe Diffie song, "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die)," Airman Poire played guitar along with the rest of the band.

"He sang in tune and played guitar very well," said Jason Roller, Joe Diffie sound technician. "He has a lot of talent."

When asked if he had anything to say to the Gunfighters, Mr. Diffie said, "We are proud of you and all the work you do protecting us everyday, thank you."

Elmendorf SVS changes Web site appearance



By Mary Rall
3rd Services Marketing

The 3rd Services Squadron Web site, www.elmendorfservices.com, has a new look. It is full of information and tools to help patrons get the most out of recreation and service facilities on Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

People who log on will find information concerning the more than 15 Services facilities on base.

Services facilities from the Hillberg Ski Area to the child development centers are highlighted on the site with information about hours of operation, facility features and pictures to help you get a feel for the facility.

The site is easier to navigate, helping patrons find exactly what they're looking for, including conveniences such as fitness center aerobics sched-

ules, and downloadable child care and youth sports forms.

People can also view club calendars and an electronic version of the "Screamin' Eagle," the monthly 3rd Services Squadron events newsletter.

People curious about the site might find some surprises while browsing. As a part of an ongoing promotion, Services has hidden prizes on various pages on the site.

Prizes are noted with an animated graphic directing individuals to call with the name, location of the prize and their name and phone number. The first person to call and correctly identify the prize will be contacted by the Services marketing staff to tell them when to pick it up. While the prizes do change regularly, there is a guaranteed monthly prize of \$50.

The site is also an opportunity for patrons to keep Ser-

vices informed of how they are being served within Services facilities through the Interactive Customer Evaluation program.

The program allows users to recommend ideas and resolutions for problems, as well as praise positive experiences.

By logging on to the site and following the ICE icon on the main page, visitors can follow the links leading them to an electronic comment card that will go directly to the facility they wish to comment on.

Users can also enter their phone number and e-mail address if they want a manager to contact them directly.

Managers use the comments they receive to assess, develop and provide the highest quality service they can.

For information, or to contact the site's designer, log on to www.elmendorfservices.com.

Barksdale Child care administrator scores 100% on annual inspection

By Stephanie Bemrose
Barksdale Air Force
Base, La., Public
Affairs

The 2nd Services Squadron family member programs flight was inspected recently and had high ratings in several areas during an annual unannounced inspection by the Air Force Services Agency.

The Barksdale Air Force Base, La., family child care program coordinator achieved a 100 percent rating, while two family child care providers achieved 96 and 97 percent ratings.

The Child Development Center, youth program, school-age program and part-day enrichment center were also evaluated and received high ratings.

Gloria Hampton, 2nd SVS training and curriculum specialist, said the inspector thought the curriculum used by the CDC looked good.



Katheline Hooker pours Jaya Bellamy another bowl of cereal as she gets ready to eat breakfast at the Child Development Center recently. The CDC was part of an annual unannounced inspection and received a high rating. Photo by Senior Airman Stephen Otero

"Overall, we did really well in that area and the inspectors also looked at the curriculum using the creative curriculum program, which ensures lessons are individualized for every child in our program," she said. "Implementation of DTM (developmental training model), which is used in all Air Force CDCs, was also reviewed during the inspection. It employs staff observations to identify target training areas and to recognize the wonderful things the

teachers are doing. The inspectors also identified areas of focus for the teachers, the training and curriculum specialist, and management."

According to Glenn Martin, 2nd SVS flight chief of family member programs, the unannounced higher headquarters inspections are the results from the military child care acts, which place very stringent guidelines on child care in DOD.

Penny Haire, 2nd SVS family child care coordinator,

further explained the reason the inspections are unannounced.

"Since the visits are unannounced, they ensure we are inspection ready at all times," she said. "It improves the quality of the child care provided."

Mr. Martin said this is the 15th year the program has been inspected and

Ms. Hampton added the CDC accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children is one of the oldest in the command.

"Each year, the inspection is modified a little bit to make sure the highest possible

standards are achieved and the lessons we've learned have been implemented into the process," Mr. Martin said.

Mr. Martin explained why the inspections are so important to the child care process.

"The bottom line is the Air Force has very high standards for child care and no-notice inspections ensure Air Force parents that we're meeting those high standards," he said.

Maj. Kendall Peters, 2nd SVS commander, said he is pleased with the results of the inspection.

"This is the first inspection I've ever seen, but I think we did very well — better than the Air Force average," he said.

Mr. Martin agreed. "I'm very proud of the results of our inspection — it was a reinforcement of what we had intended to see," he said.

Dover Arts & Crafts renews spirit of service

By Xan Salas
Arts & Crafts Manager
436th Services Squadron

Taking pride in our work and environment is a daily way of life at the Arts & Crafts Center at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Quality assurance begins at the top with the new facility name changing from Skills Development Center to Arts & Crafts and follows through to new faces and services throughout the center.

Our newest team member and framing specialist, Adrian Guajardo, brings to the Frame Shop an extensive background in the arts, to include graphics and information technology. He possesses a background in museums and conservation.

A recent addition to the Auto Hobby Shop team is David Kabina, who recently completed school for alignment services and has a vast knowledge of automotive repair.

In addition to new faces, new services abound throughout the center. The Auto Hobby Shop implemented evening hours on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., to accommodate those customers who wish to utilize the shop's services later in the evenings.

Any eligible customer, Department of Defense employee, Reservist, active-duty, contractor or retiree, can come in and rent a stall by the hour.

We can provide on request, step-by-step printed repair instructions on how to fix anything from drive shafts, changing a heater coil to doing a brake job for virtually any make or model. Furthermore, our tool crib is equipped with both

metric and standard tools to benefit those customers who may need a tool for a one-time purpose.

The Auto Hobby Shop also provides "Rent a Mechanic" appointment only services for wheel alignments, brake jobs, rotor turning, transmission flushing, engine diagnostic, emission testing, tire rotation and balancing, tow dolly rental and much more.

Coupling all these in-house Auto Hobby Shop services with a body area and a paint booth can help you to restore that old car that you love.

Continuing in the spirit of service, the Arts & Crafts Center works in conjunction with Family Support to provide auto services for the spouses of deployed members. A voucher from Air Force Aid can be used by the spouse to receive a free oil change at the Auto Shop.

Leisure Travel calls the Arts & Crafts Center home as well. Customers can purchase discount movie passes to see those new releases at Carmike Cinemas.

Discounted tickets are also available to local amusement parks, museums, sporting events and other attractions, not to mention all of the Disney and Florida attractions.

Tours run weekly to fabulous locations along the east coast, aboard our deluxe motor coach buses.

There is so much, under one roof. We will price break all downtown competitors with laser engraving, screen printing, metal engraving, print reproductions and photo enhancements, lamination, sublimation, identification badges and tags, and custom framing, to name a few.



Adrian Guajardo, Arts & Crafts Framing Specialist, strives to deliver superior-quality framed art for his customers. Photo by Xan Salas

Vinyl graphics and sign and banner making are the newest services offered in this area.

Every dollar spent in the Arts & Crafts Center goes back into the Morale Welfare and Recreation Fund, which serves to enhance the military way of life.

Finally, the Arts & Crafts center provides a variety of classes, including adult piano, sign language, pottery, stained glass, photography, creative memories, matting & framing, printmaking, knitting, basket weaving and painting.

Throughout the year special workshops for both children and adults are offered.

Professional groups, Services keep deployed Airmen busy

By Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN) — Three professional organizations, The Airmen Committed to Excellence, Middle Tier Association and Top 3 Organization, are helping augment some of the 455th Expeditionary

Services Squadron's morale-building initiatives.

"Each of these organizations represents a cross-section of our Air Force population at Bagram," said Lt. Col. Anne Marie Fenton, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron commander. "They're in tune with the needs and interests of our

Airmen here and bring targeted advice on how to improve the quality of life here."

Whether organizing a sporting event or providing a place to unwind, the partnership between the organizations — and Services squadron — is making it possible for the quality of life here to be a continual focal point.

The Airmen Committed to Excellence strives to be a focal point for Airmen around Camp Cunningham, said Senior Airman Daniel Cintron, its president.

"ACE gives Airmen an opportunity to express what they want and need to make life here easier and better," Airman Cintron said.

The Middle Tier Association is for staff sergeants and technical sergeants or those selected for those ranks.

"The Middle Tier Association provides an excellent opportunity for all of our staff selects through

technical sergeants to get involved in helping improve your life and the lives of others while deployed here," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Haines, MTA president.

The Top 3 Organization is for the top three enlisted ranks. Its goal is to coordinate and plan activities that reenergize Airmen so they can continue dedicating their effort to getting the mission done, said Master Sgt. Anthony Edmondson, Top 3 president.

Enjoying off-duty activities is an important part to most people's well-being, said Master Sgt. Edgar Langdon, the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group first sergeant.

"Just like at home station, all work and no play can cause problems for anyone," said Sergeant Langdon, from of Hatboro, Pa.

Senior Airman Brenda Patterson, an information

manager with the support group, has seen the impact of the partnership between the Services squadron and the three professional organizations.

"Soon after arriving here, I saw that some people didn't know anyone else deployed here," said Airman Patterson, who is from Mesquite, Texas, and also deployed here from Davis-Monthan.

She said that soon changed mostly because of the efforts of all the organizations involved. She said the groups and Services troops put on such events as volleyball and basketball tournaments and running a snack shack and recreation areas.

"And most of all," she said, "they are taking the time to find ways (to help) people enjoy themselves and get to know others during their off-duty time."



Senior Airman Sarah Beauchamp sets the ball during a volleyball tournament. The tournament is one of many events put together by professional organizations. Airman Beauchamp is deployed from Dover Air Force Base, Del., and is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Photo by Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald

Team Kirtland volunteers renovate Stripes Lounge

New sports pub features designed to draw crowds back to club

Master Sgt. Horace LeLeaux, 898th Munitions Squadron, installs a speaker as part of the new renovations for the Stripes Lounge enlisted club. Photos by Dennis Carlson

By Mara Minwegen
Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Public Affairs

At the usually quiet hour of 10 a.m. on a recent Friday, the Stripes Lounge in the Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Mountain View Club was full of construction noise as Airmen went to work preparing the lounge for a big change.

The volunteers had responded to a call for workers from Master Sgt. Raymond Nivens, 377th Security Forces Squadron.

They stripped the interior of the lounge to make room for major improvements: a 42-inch plasma television, 10 TVs positioned all around the bar, a lounge area, an entertainment center with sports video games, darts, a pool table,



and all the necessary items to complete the sports pub theme.

It's more than paint, plaster and some high-tech additions. The sports pub theme includes not only sports memorabilia inside, but a collection of enlisted memorabilia outside.

The collection includes a donation from the Enlisted Heritage Museum, and a 1943 Kirtland yearbook with photos of the golf and basketball teams, thanks to the contributions from the 377th Air Base Wing Historian, Jim Gildea.

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Sikora, 377th Air Base Wing



Volunteers help with the renovation of Stripes Lounge in the Mountain View Club at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M..

Continued on next page

Kirtland volunteers renovate Stripes Lounge

continued from page 32

command chief master sergeant, fully supported the project, which had been six months in planning.

He sees the new Stripes Lounge as an inviting pub, and said, "To see the teamwork of the entire installation has been inspiring."

Sergeant Nivens, the renovations organizer, shares Chief Sikora's vision. "We want to bring back the aura of the enlisted club, make it a gathering place for enlisted people, a place for camaraderie."

Master Sgt. Horace LeLeaux, 898th Munitions Squadron, was in charge of the construction. He wanted the lounge to be known as "not just a meeting room, but a place to go and relax with friends."

All three say that the improved atmosphere and the new features will combine to draw crowds on a regular basis.

Though the new Stripes Lounge should appeal to senior enlisted personnel, the renovations being made are with the younger Airmen in mind.

According to Airman 1st Class Robert Sosa, before the renovations began, the usual patrons of the lounge were "sergeants and above. Younger people like more of a party atmosphere."

Some people didn't even know the lounge was still open. Others had not driven that way lately due to road construction. All that has changed, said Airman 1st class Randall Miskowic, 377th Security Forces Squadron. He said that the new lounge is more appealing, especially with the games and TVs available.

It will become a place where Airmen know they can "actually have some fun."

Enlisted members can look forward to having a place to hang out, watch sports, talk with friends, or just relax very soon.



Honor on ice

Members of a joint honor guard made up partially of members of the Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Honor Guard, present the colors before the start of an East Coast Hockey League game recently. The Alaska Aces honored military fans during the game for their annual Military Appreciation Night. The Aces defeated the Bakersfield Condors 2-1 in overtime. Photo by Airman 1st Class Garrett Hothan

NEWS PEOPLE

A family affair – love knows no rank, or does it?

By Lori Peppers
45th Services Squadron

One of the most significant events in the life of a military member is the opportunity to advance in rank.

For 1st Lt. Thomas Kleczkowski and his wife 1st Lt. Mentissa (or Tissa as she is affectionately known) Kleczkowski, it was an occasion of double import as both pinned on the rank of captain in an August ceremony at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Surrounded by family members, friends and co-workers, the pair proudly did the honor of pinning on each other's new rank.

But, the question ringing in everyone's ear — who pinned on first? It's a question that has been pondered by great minds through the ages. And, for the Kleczkowskis anyway, the age-old question has been answered.

Captain Thomas Kleczkowski is

currently the officer in charge for Plans and Force Management in the 45th Services Squadron.

Captain Kleczkowski is prior-enlisted with a total of 16 1/2 years of Air Force service. He earned a degree in psychology while serving at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, where he applied for his commission. He met his wife while at Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB Ala.

Captain Tissa Kleczkowski was introduced by her commander, Lt. Col. Dave Salm. Captain Kleczkowski serves as logistics officer and weather program manager for the Eastern Range Program Office, which is the focal point for Air Force's Eastern Range launch and space related operations at Patrick and Cape Canaveral.

With a total of 19 1/2 years of Air Force service, she also is prior enlisted



Capt. Mentissa Kleczkowski, Eastern Range Program Office, and her husband, Capt. Thomas Kleczkowski, 45th Services Squadron, pin on each other's new rank at a combined ceremony at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Photo by Chuck Nolan

with an impressive record of service.

Summing up her emotions, she expressed the adage that she has always held to with the encouragement to "never give up on your dream."

Only two weeks before their promotions, the Kleczkowskis suffered the loss of Thomas' father in his fight against cancer.

"Over the past several weeks," he

said, "it's been a roller coaster ride for us personally. The promotion was certainly a highlight of our lives and definitely enabled us to end a series of ups and downs on the high side."

So, which of the two Captain Kleczkowskis pinned on the new rank first? As a smiling Captain Thomas Kleczkowski said of his tearful wife, "we all knew who the boss was (before today), there's no secret there."

Tennis pro offers group, private lessons for Hill hardcourters

By Shad West
Hill Air Force Base,
Utah, Public Affairs

The Hess Fitness Center's new tennis instructor has already aced his first match at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

The 26-year-old pro held an introductory clinic recently that drew a crowd of 25 interested players.

The free clinic gave David Ellison a chance to showcase the skills his students would learn during private and group lessons.

Those skills included the very basics for beginners, such as how to hold a racquet properly, and for more advanced players, the different shots needed for a fine-tuned game.

"I thought Ellison and the clinic were both awesome," said David Ovard.

Mr. Ovard immediately signed his daughter, Kelcey, up for private lessons.

"She really wants to learn the funda-

mental skills and apply them at school."

A love of the game is what keeps Mr. Ellison active in tennis. He grew up admiring Andre Agassi and has been playing tennis for 16 years. He played at Ogden High School and continued at Pierce College in California.

"The game is so intoxicating," he said. "I hung with it through school — now it feels really good to out and play an opponent."

Mr. Ellison's resume includes coaching high school tennis, and he turned pro four years ago. He has been involved in after-school programs and has taught at private health clubs around southern California.

Mr. Ellison, a certified professional with the United States Tennis Association, teamed up with Tennis' top organization to bring the game to elementary schools.



Tennis pro David Ellison instructs 16-year-old Kelcey Ovard during a private lesson at the Hess Fitness Center. Ms. Ovard says individual lessons will help her game, giving her an edge on her high school team. Photo by Shad West

"It's a great feeling to teach kids the game I love," he said. "We would go out to elementary schools and set a net up in the parking lot and expose the game to kids who might not get a chance to experience it otherwise."

Mr. Ellison believes in the benefits of tennis.

"Tennis is a lifetime sport," he

said. "I've seen people who still play the game in their 90s. There is a social aspect to the game that makes it just as enjoyable as golf, but with added benefits."

He says that the game not only develops hand-eye coordination, but it teaches players a thinking pattern that they must use to keep two or three

shots ahead of their opponent. Tennis also offers players a great cardiovascular workout.

As the Hess Fitness Center's tennis pro, Ellison is CPR certified and has taken the required first aid courses to teach on base. He offers a variety of classes for all abilities and ages.

Singing, dancing, all in a day's work for Hanscom lieutenant

**By 1st Lt. Martha Petersante-Gioia
Hanscom Air Force
Base, Mass., Public
Affairs**

It seems that many little girls grow up with stars in their eyes, dreaming of becoming a prima ballerina, dancing or singing on Broadway or playing to jam-packed stadiums with their rock band.

For one lieutenant from Hanscom she is getting to do just that, live her dream of performing.

First Lt. Tamilyn Becker, Air Force Research Laboratory

Space Vehicles Directorate, is the tour director, singer and dancer for Tops In Blue 2005, "And the Beat Goes On" tour.

Lieutenant Becker has been studying dance since childhood and knows that this is an experience of a lifetime. "This is a lot more than I expected," she said. "I have to rate this as one of the most challenging things that I have done in my life, right behind attending the Air Force Academy."

"As the tour director, I supervise 32 other people,"

she said. "This in an invaluable lesson in leadership too, which is a growing experience for me as I had little supervisory experience before."

This position is chosen by how a person interacts within the team. "I guess they saw something in me," Lieutenant Becker said.

As a both a dancer and vocalist she finds herself expanding her horizons. "I'm a dancer, not a singer. During the first three months when we learned the [choreography] they brought in a vocal coach and now I find myself singing out more, like to the radio. I never would have done that before," she said.

For the other girls in the show, she said that they are having similar experiences. "They are dancing more than they ever thought that they would."

Touring isn't just make-up, perform-

ing and sleeping like some might imagine. The cast, and crew, of Tops In Blue are their own stage hands, setting up and breaking down their stage. "A typical day for me is to get up, set up the 52,000 pounds of staging we have, rehearse, perform, breakdown the set right after the performance, pack up, [maybe] sleep and travel to the next location," Lieutenant Becker said.

However, the hard work does pay off for members of the team. What many see in a lifetime of travel to Europe for family vacations, the lieutenant toured in a month. "I saw all the main spots like London and Paris," she said. But the "coolest" places that she has been to were Iceland and Greenland.

"We actually just got in from Iceland and Greenland," Lieutenant Becker said. "How many people can say that

they have been to both of those countries?" And she still has five more months to tour.

This year's tour focuses on music of the big-band era and follows the tale of "The Ritz" a swinging club during music's golden years. The men and women of Tops In Blue combined their talents from across the globe to bring a toe-tapping show to life.

Right in the midst of the Ritz, Lieutenant Becker lived her dream of performing every night.

She offers a small piece of advice for those contemplating auditioning for next year's troupe.

"If you love to sing or dance and have true passion for it, audition," she said. "Listen to the troupe about the teamwork because there is a lot of it. It's a lot of hard work and stress both on your body and mind, but you can do it. And you'll get through."



First Lt. Tamilyn Becker sings during a recent Tops In Blue performance at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Photo by Mark Wyatt

Spangdahlem Airman, vocalist, describes life with Tops In Blue

**By Senior Airman
Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs**

This year, an Airman from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was selected and is touring as one of 30 "ambassadors" of music, vocals and dance in the Air Force's premier performing troupe, Tops in Blue.

Airman 1st Class Beverly Sadural, a 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron engineering assistant, will have brought America's unique brand of culture and entertainment to more than 120 locations in the United States and 25 foreign countries by the end of the 2005 tour.

"When my commander told me I was selected for Tops in Blue, I felt like I was starting an exciting roller coaster ride," Airman Sadural said.

Upon hearing the news, Airman Sadural said the

initial jitters were soon replaced by the anticipation of working with a variety of other Airmen committed to boosting service members' morale.

"We are bringing a piece of home to wherever (Airmen) and their families are stationed," Airman Sadural said. "This is especially true for our desert troops — we give them a moment to forget where they are and lose themselves in the moment."

Airman Sadural said she often finds the general public is amazed that such a rich blend of musical talent is found within the profession of arms.

"Our audience is typically very proud that we can serve and represent our country in this way," she said. "They seem more patriotic after seeing the show."

Airman Sadural's journey from a civil engineer to a Tops in Blue vocalist is one of the latest



Airman 1st Class Beverly Sadural performs at the 2005 Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. She was one of 30 selected for the 2005 Tops in Blue tour, which will have traveled to more than 120 locations in the United States and 25 foreign countries by the end of the tour. Airman Sadural is an engineering assistant with the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. U.S. Air Force photo

chapters in a vision more than half a century old.

Over the span of decades, Tops in Blue has performed in films, produced albums and has been featured on national television with such stars as Ed Sullivan, Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, Barbara Mandrell and Alabama.

Embarking on an adventure such as Tops In Blue takes the determination of a performer as well as the teamwork of the office they leave

behind for the one-year commitment.

One Airman in her office here said he could not be more proud of his friend and colleague, who he described as "diligent and quiet-natured." He recalled that her humility kept the depth and breadth of her talent somewhat obscured before her selection.

"I knew she was gifted when she sang the national anthem at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.,

where we met about a year ago," said Airman 1st Class Gregory Bault, a 52nd CES engineering apprentice. "She was so humble about her skill that we didn't know all that she could do until after the Tops In Blue selection."

Her dedication earned her the prestige that fewer than 2,000 other Tops in Blue performers have enjoyed over the past 50 years.

USAFE News Service

Greg McCreary has high hopes as new Wingo Inn manager

For Greg McCreary, the new Wingo Inn manager, coming to Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn., was like seeing a long-held dream finally come true.

He had recently retired after a 20-year career in the Air Force, and was looking for what he described as "my next big challenge."

"I was always looking for that bigger challenge," he said, admitting it did not take him long to make a decision. "I thought about it and discussed it with my wife and I thought, 'Let's throw our hat in the ring and see what happens.' I was lucky enough to have been considered and given this opportunity."

As it turned out, Mr. McCreary had envisioned coming to middle Tennessee 20 years earlier.

"Arnold has always been on my radar," he said. "In 1985, it was the first time I was ever away from home

and I was looking for a place and learned Arnold was in this area, and I recall thinking, 'Wow, I'd really love to get to Tennessee.'

"I'd traveled through northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky and I used to go fishing with my family in Cumberland. But unfortunately, getting an assignment at Arnold wasn't in the cards."

Mr. McCreary's last assignment was as the lodging manager at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., where he served for eight years.

"I came into the Air Force directly out of high school," he recalled. "I started off in the commissary service, AFComs, Air Force's Commissary Service. Today, of course, it is DeCA (Defense Commissary Agency)."

During his career, Mr. McCreary held a number of service-related positions

and also spent six years working in the Air Postal Squadron, which took him overseas to Norvenich Air Base, Germany and Brussels, Belgium. A deployment while assigned to AIRPS took him to Tuzla, Bosnia in 1996-97.

"In Belgium, I was assigned to the U.S. Embassy to NATO Headquarters – as the postmaster," he said. "In between that, I was part of the first Air Force Commissary team ever to deploy. We worked from the Port of Dammam issuing rations to over 25 geographically separated locations around the Arabian Peninsula."

He also served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Dining Facility Manager and non-commissioned officer in charge of recreation while assigned to 447th Expeditionary Group, Camp Sather, Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.

As a teenager, he was intrigued by the



McCreary

military, later joining the Air Force as a highly motivated young man, eager to serve his country and to "do everything I could to be a valid part of America's fighting force."

Mr. McCreary credits his father, who was director of operations at a hotel/resort, and a number of his military supervisors as being excellent mentors. He said they were the ones who have provided him with the

structure and professional guidance he has used successfully in his career. He, in turn, has tried to instill those same lessons and a strong work ethic in his young subordinates.

"Everything that I've done in my career for 20 years, and even prior to that, since I was 15 years old, has been revolved around customer service, not only external

Continued on next page



Zamora, Kirtland craftsman, retires

Mike Zamora, a longtime recreation aid at the Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Arts and Crafts Center inspects his engraving work in the plaque and award shop. Mr. Zamora, who has been with the arts and crafts center since 1997, retired recently. He said he plans to go back to school to become a physical therapist. The arts and crafts center is located on the southeast corner of F Avenue and Wyoming Boulevard. The center offers many services and activities to Kirtland personnel, including a full-service custom-frame shop, and the plaque and award shop. The center offers numerous classes in fine arts and crafts. Annual events include the Air Force Artist and Craftsman's Contest, the Air Force Photography Contest and the Holiday Seasons Greeting Card Contest. Photo by Todd Berenger

New Wingo Inn manager 'there for the public'

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customers, but internal customers as well," he said. "My biggest challenge now is the project involving the Wingo Inn—its expansion and renovation—that's going to be our biggest challenge. Once we get over that hurdle, the Wingo Inn, cosmetically, is going to speak for itself. It will stand alone."

Mr. McCreary is impressed by the

physical setting of Arnold AFB, including the beautiful land and Woods Reservoir.

"This area at Arnold has a unique retreat setting and we need to market all that this area has to offer" he explained.

After the project to upgrade the Wingo Inn is completed, he plans to focus on three areas: increasing lodging occupancy,

ensuring the highest level of customer service possible and marketing the Wingo Inn and the associated assets nearby on base.

His goal is to form a partnership with the management of the Arnold Lakeside Club, Community Activities Center and the Gossick Leadership Center, to work together in promoting Arnold to a

wider range of customers.

"Developing a rapport with our customers is a necessity," he said. "Word of mouth advertising is invaluable. Generally speaking our occupancy rate is roughly 65 percent annually. My goal is to raise that rate by 20 percent per annum."

Mr. McCreary emphasized the need for outstanding

customer service, saying, "The Wingo Inn will stand alone in its customer service—we will be the measure of customer service in Air Force lodging—whatever it takes to make sure that our guests are taken care of, whenever they need it, we will be there for our customers."

Names, faces in the news

Dyess Warrior of the Week

Airman Apuleyo Orias

Unit: 407th Air Expeditionary Services Squadron

Duty title: Sports director

Home station: 7th Services Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

Most memorable Air Force experience:

"When I set foot on the ground in Iraq. Previous deployments had given me the most memorable ex-



Orias

periences; however, being deployed to Iraq supersedes them all."

IG team names outstanding performers

The following people were named outstanding performers by the Air Education and Training Command inspector general team during the 12th Flying Training Wing operational readiness inspection at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

12th Services Division

Master Sgt. Anthony Gardner

Corita Caler

Debra Jamroz

Edward McDaniel

Tony Osborn

Lisa Pellerin

Sharon Rector

One more chief promotion announced

Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Romero, 437th Services Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., has been selected on a supplemental board for promotion to chief master sergeant.

He was deployed last year and tested out of cycle.

Tinker announces award winners

Col. Joan Cunningham, 72nd Air Base Wing commander at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., announced quarterly award winners.

Among them was:

Civilian

Category 4:

Judith Fair, 72nd Services Division

Category 6:

Lynda Munroe, 72nd SVS

MacDill Diamond Sharp

Tech. Sgt. Rosa Aumack, 6th Services Squadron

JobTitle: NCOIC Fitness Operations

Hometown: Staten Island, N.Y.

Short-term goals: Master all aspects of my new position.

Long-term goals: To finish my bachelor's degree in business management.

Advice to others: Don't sell yourself short; any goal is attainable if you are willing to work hard to get it.

Role model and why: My grandmother is because she's a very strong woman and did not let any of life's obstacles slow her down.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Randy Redman



Aumack

Whiteman quarterly award winners announced

Connie Morton, 509th Services Squadron, is the Associate Civilian of the Quarter for Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

Ms. Morton supervised planning, delivery and evaluation of innovative youth programs to more than 850 youths during the quarter.

She also administered a \$27,000 Boys and Girls Grant to provide innovative programs to Whiteman's youth.

Ms. Morton organized three on-base 4-H clubs with more than 75 youth and parents participating in projects and community service.

She also coordinated a Pre-Teen One-to-One project by adopting a one-mile stretch of highway and her efforts garnered \$500,000.

Ms. Morton volunteers as a part of Knob Noster High School Band Booster Club by assisting with travel and fundraisers.

Names, faces in the news

Agency announces AFA Loos Award winners

Lois Craig was the Category I winner and William Spencer was the Category II winner of the annual Charlotte and Carlton Loos Award, given by the Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association to the top 40 civilians in the San Antonio area.

Kadena names outstanding performers

The following members of the 18th Services Squadron were named outstanding performers during the recent unit compliance inspection at Kadena Air Base, Japan:

Keiko Yonaha, Tech. Sgt. Mary Williams, Airman 1st Class Troy Dueling, Zola Barbour, Jay Fountain, Michael Fournier, Chris Gunn, Robert Icbun, Rebecca Johnson, Scott Litster, April Marling, Hidetoshi Miyagi, Roderick MNoore, Jim Nagle, Keith Neal, Tracy Perez, Rachel rice, Gale Sadaoka, Naoya Tamanaha, Motomesa Tonaki and Linda Webb.

Eglin CCAF grads

The following members of the 96th Services Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., graduated recently with Community College of the Air Force degrees:

Master Sgt. Edward Shepard
Human Resources Management
Tech. Sgts. Irman Garza and
Tilwanja Lucas
Fitness, Recreation and Services
Management

Nellis quarterly award winner



Master Sgt. Mark Thompson
99th Services Squadron
Senior NCO Category

Eglin Airman ALS DG

Senior Airman Clarence Abercrombie, 96th Services Squadron, was a distinguished graduate of Class 06-A of Airman Leadership School at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Luke's outstanding performers

Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., Airmen are celebrating the 56th Fighter Wing's rating of "Excellent" in the recent Operational Readiness Inspection.

Outstanding performers from the 56th Services Squadron were:

1st Lt. Meaghan Jordan, Senior Airmen Darlene Gaskill and Joann Richards, Bill Briggs, Jennifer Greenwood, Timothy Hall, Samuel Harvey, Danny Pfiester and Pamela Lum.

Dyess quarterly award winner

Civilian category III
Dyess Air Force Base, Texas
Michael Simpson

Unit: 7th Services Squadron
resource management

Job title: Resource advisor,
budget analyst

Yokota Air Base Samurai Warrior of the Week

Senior Airman Tiffany Pacheco, 374th Services Division, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of sincerity, respect and dedication to the physical and mental readiness of Yokota Airmen.

Airman Pacheco is the special events coordinator at the Yokota Fitness Center. She takes great pride in each and every task set before her. Airman Pacheco is responsible for orchestrating wing readiness 5K runs, bodybuilding contests and the annual wing sports day, in which more than 1,800 "Fit-to-Fight" Yokota warriors participated.

She also instructed 19 unit physical training leaders on FitLinxx applications and provided fitness equipment orientation.

American Legion Riders welcome home McConnell Airman



Senior Airman Anthony Crone, 22nd Services Squadron information manager, was surprised by more than 50 American Legion Riders outside his home recently with a welcome home message. Courtesy photo

**By Senior Airman
Cheyenne Jackson
McConnell Air Force
Base, Kans., Public
Affairs**

Much to his surprise, one McConnell Air Force Base, Kans., Airman experienced the motto of a local chapter of legion riders up close and personal.

Senior Airman Anthony Crone, 22nd Services Squadron information manager, sat down to dinner recently, but was unexpectedly interrupted with the surprise of his life.

More than 50 motorcyclists from

the American Legion Riders Post 136 gathered outside his home in Mulvane, Kan., to give him a special message.

"They thanked me for what we did over there and what we do everyday," said Airman Crone referring to the dozens of ALRs who lauded him for his military service. "It was their way of showing support for the troops."

Airman Crone was selected by the group to receive an ALR "Welcome Home" after being nominated by his daughter's grandfather, who previously

worked with a member of the ALR.

"Initially I was shocked and confused," said Airman Crone. "I was probably a little defensive too. Its not everyday 50 motorcycles stop outside of your door."

After going outside to shake the hands of the hog-riding patriots, Airman Crone was presented with an American Legion Flag signed by the group, and became the star of an impromptu photo session.

"It makes you proud of what you

do, when you get support from the community like this," said Airman Crone, who recently returned from a four-month deployment in support of Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM.

According to Terry Houck, American Legion Riders Post 136 Veteran's Affairs Coordinator, the purpose of the ALR is to promote and support programs of the Legion, to include but not limited to participation in parades, charities, veteran's issues, and keeping

with the aims and purposes of the American Legion.

"We do 2-3 rides per month," said Mr. Houck referring to the ALR's "Welcome Home" rides.

The Legion prides itself on showing support for the troops and their families in many ways and are committed to preserving the freedom and liberty this country was founded on.

"It makes you proud to serve when you can come home to this kind of support," said Airman Crone.

Hill's Heroes

Hill's Heroes
Who they are:
The 75th Services Division's training team, with help from several other Services Division and base organizations, who developed and ran the "Price Is Right" game show themed program to test knowledge of the Airman's Manual.

The main players: Senior Airman Jacob Gonzales, as Bob Barker; Brian Hetzel, as Rod

Roddy; Lisa Thompson and Christina Utz, as Bob's Beauties; Raymond Parr, sound system coordinator; and Mandy Whitaker, stage coordinator.

What they do: With flair and gusto this team put on a show to rival the original. Teams of two Airmen are called to "come on down" to bid on items on stage.

Items up for bid included a military working dog



The 75th Services Division training team was named as "Hill's Heroes" by Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Courtesy photo

(\$23,500), the first two-year's supply of medical vaccinations (\$299) and "his and hers" M-16 rifles (\$898).

Contestants then participated in six challenging games that tested their

knowledge of the Airman's Manual.

The program provided by the "Price Is Right" team is not only fun, but a great way for the Airmen to remember the valuable information in the

manual that can prove helpful when in a deployed location or on some other type of contingency operation.

Nominator: Brian Borda, 75th Services Division director



Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Andy Athlete

Senior Airman Sarah Haylett
Andersen Bombers Volleyball
Unit: 36th Services Squadron

Sports association: Volleyball
Playing time: 12 years

Experience: Junior Olympics, in Michigan; Tristate University, Ind.; Air North European Air Force Team; and the Air Force Team

Sports introduction: One of the sports played in high school
Enjoys: Intensity, competition

Heroes: Father

Favorite team: Any beach volleyball and teammates

Awards: MVP for defense during Junior Olympics and MVP at high school

Advice: "Volleyball is an all-around fun sport to play, regardless of experience."

Routine: Weights and cardio three times a week; play beach volleyball once a week; coach intramural volleyball; play as much as I can

Former commander visits Misawa

By Senior Airman Terri Barriere
Misawa Air Base, Japan, Public Affairs

Former 35th Fighter Wing commander Brig. Gen. Dana Atkins returned to Misawa Air Base, Japan, recently to find his dream of a giant indoor recreation center had become a reality.

This was the general's first return to Misawa since departing in April 2004 and his first time in the Weasel's Den since its completion.

"It's exciting to see it come to fruition. It's hard to imagine what a vision's going to look like until it's a realization," General Atkins said during his tour of the facility. "The pictures didn't do it justice."

The last time the general saw the Weasel's Den it was nothing more than chalk outlines on the floor of an empty hangar.

The general, now vice commander of 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Korea, said his dream for the Weasel's Den was to be able to have a place where moms and dads drop their children off to go do something and know they would be in a wholesome environment.

"This is going to be that winter venue for the Misawa community, particularly for families with

smaller children that don't have anything to do," he said. "The winters are long, you need to release energy, and you need to do that in a safe and healthy environment."

Dave Hymer, outdoor recreation center director, along with other senior leadership, led the general on a tour of the \$1.7 million facility.

During the tour, they watched a climber in action on the rock climbing wall, visited the retail center and party room, and took a spin on the facility's most popular activity, the go-cart track.

The general was also briefed on the Den's usage since its opening in March, which included 12,000 go-cart rides, more than 3,000 miniature golf games, more than 1,500 climbers and nearly 100 birthday parties.

"It's been phenomenal," Mr. Hymer said.

"This is the only one in the Air Force," General Atkins said about the Weasel's Den. "And what better place to have it than Northern Japan ... where you really need an indoor venue. It's great ... and I'm sure it's going to get even better."



Brig. Gen. Dana Atkins, right, vice commander of 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Korea, tours the Weasel's Den with Dave Hymer, Misawa Air Base, Japan, outdoor recreation center director. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Bellamy

Team Minot Warrior Spotlight

Airman 1st
Class Chad
Zuehls



Unit and
occupation: 5th
Services Squad-
ron, Dakota Inn
Dining Facility sous chef
Hometown: DePere, Wisc.
Time at Minot: One year, one
month

Time in Air Force: One year,
eight months

Hobbies: Hockey, fishing, watch-
ing sports

How does Airman Zuehls exem-
plify the Air Force's core values?

Airman Zuehls' dedication to duty
and focus on customer service
exemplify the Air Force's core
values.

As a chef in the 5th SVS, Chad
has developed a personal policy of
only the best for his customers. He
goes out of his way to ensure every
item cooked by him or his shift is
prepared, displayed and served
properly and professionally.

His positive attitude is contagious
and his dedication to providing top-
notch customer service is unbeat-
able.

He volunteered as a squadron
physical training leader and con-
stantly strives to ensure his co-
workers improve their physical
fitness by volunteering his off-duty
time to assist those in need.

— Maj. Lisa McColgan,
5th Services Squadron com-
mander

Photo by Senior Airman Danny
Monahan

Robins salutes night workers

Tina Huddleston

Front desk clerk, Pine Oaks Lodge

Years with the Air Force: 10; I spent four years in the Air Force as a dental hygienist

Best part about the night shift: "It's the people who come in and check in. They come from all over the world, as you can imagine."

Reason for joining the Air Force: I like Air Force people. As a military brat, I grew up around the Air Force."

Goals: "I want to get settled in here in Warner Robins and buy a house."

Staff Sgt. Dashonna Thomas

78th Services Division, Base Fitness Center

Years with the Air Force: 4

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Best part about the night shift: "There's more time to interact with the customers. It's so busy during the day with all the people who come and go that there isn't much time to help people. At night, it slows down, and if a customer needs one-on-one help with their workout, nights are the best time to get it."

Reason for joining the Air Force: "It was a mixture of education and travel. I was a military brat; my step-dad was in the Air Force."

Goals: "I'd like to finish my bachelors' degree in information technology and obtain my master fitness certification."



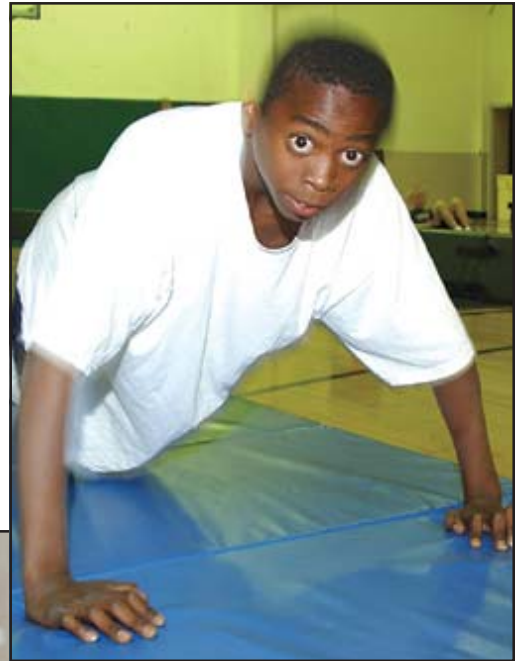
Staff Sgt. Dashonna Thomas, right, discusses cardiovascular workouts with Will Palfrey, a retiree and contractor with Northrup Grumman. Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian Bahret

FITNESS & SPORTS

'FitFactor' challenges LA youth to better fitness

Los Angeles Air Force Base Youth Program celebrated the Air Force's new fitness program, "Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit!" for youth between the ages of 9 and 18 by offering fun-filled fitness activities along with individual goal setting. The program was intended to fight childhood obesity, a growing problem in America.

Daily activities included basketball skillastics, obstacle course, relay races, basketball shootout, potato-sack race/three-legged race, fitness skillastics, sponge race, frisbee and football toss, and personal skills such as long and high jumps, 15-yard dash, jump rope, sit ups, jumping jacks and push ups.



Top photo, Demetri Sawyer counts his pushups as he competed against another team during the obstacle relay.



Left photo, Alicia Dorado eyes the basketball hoop as she readies to shoot the ball during Basketball Skillastics. "FitFactor Fun Week" ran through Oct 21. Each day featured a different event. Photos by Joe Juarez

AF marksmen place first at U.S. World Shooting Championship Selection Match

By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Julig
Air Force International Trap Shooting Team

The Air Force International Trap Team recently competed against the nation's best shotgun shooters in a 7-day single and double-trap match at the International Shooting Park on Fort Carson, Colo.

Four Airmen competed for a spot on the U.S. World Shooting Championship team in the first of two matches used to select our country's top three international shotgun shooters.

In the single-trap team event, Air Force marksman finished as the top three-man team over the full-time U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit shooters.

The Air Force team broke six more targets than the U.S. Army team finishing with a total score of 355 out of a possible 375.

Teammates Capt. Mike Herman and

Staff Sgt. Mike Agee from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., and Lt. Col. John Linn from Peterson AFB, Colo., all finished with perfect rounds of 25-straight to secure the team victory.

"Our off-duty training and support from our leadership, family, friends, and the Air Force Services Agency allows us to compete and win," said Sergeant Agee. "We couldn't do it without them."

In the individual single trap competition, Captain Herman was the top Air Force marksman, finishing fifth in the 250-target match. He broke 240 out of a possible 250 targets over the 3-day open competition to qualify for the six-man final event. Sergeant Agee also qualified for the final event by breaking 238 targets. At the end of the final event, the teammates finished fifth and sixth respectively.

Air Force shooters also succeeded in the double-trap team event, finishing first over the USAMU team by just one target.

Captain Herman and Sergeant Agee broke a combined 265 out of 300 targets to claim the trophy.

In the individual double-trap event, Captain Herman was the top Air Force shooter, finishing fifth, followed by Sergeant Agee who finished ninth.

Captain Herman's performance earned him a spot on the U.S. National Shotgun Team for the 13th consecutive year.

The World Shooting Championship selection match is different from other major competitions in the fact that the aggregate scores of two matches determine who will represent the U.S. during the international competition. At the conclusion of this match, several



The Air Force International Trap team placed first in the recent U.S. World Championship Team Selectional Match. Pictured on the award stand above the number one, from left, is Lt. Col. John Linn, Staff Sgt. Mike Agee and Capt. Mike Herman. Courtesy photo

shooting team airmen are in a very strong position as they enter the second and final match to compete for the top three slots, officials said.

The second match will be held this spring in Kerrville, Texas.

The presence of Air Force shooters in international and national-level events enhances the image of the U.S. Air Force and demonstrates its commitment to

marksmanship as a necessary skill for today's expeditionary Airman, officials said.

"As Air Force ambassadors, we help maintain public support for the Air Force and recruit future Airmen by telling others what it means to be part of the world's greatest air and space force," said Captain Herman, who was also the team captain.

Sherman, Sears named male, female athletes of year for 2005



Air Force Staff Sgt. Twyla Sears is captured in the middle of her swing during recent softball competition. The sergeant is a power production journeyman assigned to the 353rd Operations Support Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Sergeant Sears is the 2005 Female Athlete of the Year. Courtesy photo



Air Force Maj. Roger Sherman, a special assistant to the commander of U.S. Strategic Command, takes aim at his target through obstacles set up at the Eastern Nebraska Gun Club in Lewisville, Neb. Major Sherman creates drills to prepare himself for practical pistol competition. The major has been named the 2005 Male Athlete of the Year by Air Force Services Agency. Courtesy photo

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services Agency

One shoots at targets, the other at strikeouts, but both are Athletes of the Year for 2005, named by Air Force Services Agency.

Maj. Roger Sherman, a special assistant to the commander of U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., is the 2005 Male Athlete of the Year. The major is a member of the Air Force Action Pistol team, which is comprised of some of the Air Force's top shooters who compete internationally in the sport of practical pistol shooting.

Staff Sgt. Twyla Sears, assigned to the 353rd Operations Support Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, is the 2005 Female Athlete of the Year for 2005. Sergeant Sears is a pitcher for the All Armed Forces Women's Softball team, which won the Western Regional Softball tournament, where she earned First Team All American honors.

Both athletes were "stunned" to hear the news that they had been selected.

"It's great to be recognized for something you've worked so hard for," said Major Sherman. "I was overwhelmed with gratitude to my wife and son for all the sacrifices they made, allowing me to work toward my goals. I couldn't have done it without their love and support."

Continued on next page

Air Force names best athletes for 2005

continued from page 48

"I think this award shows everyone that you're not just a statistic and that you are valued and recognized for accomplishments that aren't necessarily job-related," said Sergeant Sears.

Major Sherman was the only military service member selected to the U.S. Practical Shooting National team.

His event combines many dimensions of shooting, including

drawing from a holster and shooting at moving, multiple targets. He finished sixth of 700 competitors at the U.S. Practical Shooting Association National Handgun Championship and was a bronze medalist at the world championship, competing against 1,200 shooters.

Sergeant Sears is recognized as one of the military's best softball players.

Her all-star team advanced to represent the Armed Forces at the Ama-

teur Softball Association's Western Regional Championship.

Her performance led the Armed Forces team to the championship. She went on to pitch the Armed Forces team to second place in the Amateur Softball Association's Major Level Division championship.

Air Force Athletes of the Year were awarded a commemorative jacket and plaque at the 2005 Air Force Fitness and Sports Award luncheon Nov. 30 in Orlando, Fla.

New Barksdale clubhouse: *Now hole in one, not hole in wall*

By Tech. Sgt. Chris DeWitt
Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Public Affairs

The Fox Run Golf clubhouse grand opening teed off recently at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

The contract was awarded in July 2004, and construction began in September 2004 on the \$2.8 million, non-appropriated fund project. Measuring more than 9,000 square feet, the new building is double the size of the old clubhouse.

"We have an expanded dining facility and pro shop," said Larry Busch, general manager. "We can now carry more merchandise in the pro shop."

To make use of the added space in the new clubhouse, the snack bar area was constructed with a meeting room for private meetings and parties.

"A temporary wall separating the meeting room from the dining area folds into the wall to open the area up for large functions as well," Mr. Busch said. "The snack bar went from a cubby hole to a really modern dining facility. We've been putting band aids on the old building for a long time."

The new facility boasts state-of-the-art equipment and new furniture and fixtures throughout.

"You would have had to see the old kitchen to appreciate what we have now," Mr. Busch added.

Another added feature for golfers who want a quick bite between holes is the drive-thru for golf carts at the snack bar.

"We are going to put a phone on the ninth hole tee box for customers to phone in orders," Mr. Busch said. "Then they will be able to go to the drive-thru on their way to the next hole."

Something else the customers will enjoy is the upgraded men's and women's locker and club storage rooms, Mr. Busch said. "It's something we've wanted for a long time."

Staff members at the clubhouse are not the only ones excited about the new facility.

"We had an old dilapidated, nonfunctional clubhouse," said Wayne Penrod, chief of 2nd Bomb Wing investigations and inquiries and an avid golfer. "It's 2005—we would like to have an appropriate facility. We want a nice clubhouse that supports a nice golf course."

The old facility was built in the 1930s, and Mr. Busch credits his staff members' efforts while working in the old facility.

"Our staff did a good job," Mr. Busch said. "I think our service will really improve with this facility change."



Accepting the challenge

Senior Airman Daniel Valencia, 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group at Balad Air Base, Iraq,, blows by Airman 1st Class Michael Young, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron, in a losing effort against the 332nd ESVS team Photo by Senior Airman Bryan Franks

Intramural flag football good for more than just athletics

By Melanie Salazar
Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Public Affairs

It may not be the NFL, but at first glance you wouldn't know.

Matching jerseys scatter throughout the field. On the sidelines, fans and teammates cheer as the momentum seesaws back and forth. Coaches cringe and point, running up and down the sidelines, shouting their advice across the field as the football soars through the air. The difference? These players don't suit up with pads and helmets—just a tattered belt with red and yellow flags.

Last week marked the first week of intramural flag football at Cannon this year. Like other intramural sports, this competition tests Airmen's skills and squadron teamwork outside duty hours.

Eleven teams, most decided by squadron, took to the field to prove themselves in regular season play.

Keeping Airmen physically active, Cannon's intramural schedule runs throughout the year incorporating

most seasonal sports, according to Intramural Director Staff Sgt. Adam Salonish, 27th Services Squadron.

Once regular season flag football ends, competition heats up as, just like the Super Bowl, AFC teams (larger squadrons) and NFC teams compete internally for a chance to play in the championship. The winners will take home the Commander's Cup.

But it's not all winning or losing, said Staff Sgt. Tanya Vinson, 27th Comptroller Squadron, who took on coaching responsibilities for the 27th CPTS and 27th Mission Support Squadron team. Though Sgt. Vinson hopes to see her team make it all the way, she said the most valuable thing intramural sports offers is the chance to get to know Cannon's Airmen on a more personal level.

"Normally, you always see the professional side of someone," she said. "With intramural sports, you get to see the personal side."

As the groups form and Airmen get to know fellow squadron members for the first time, Sgt.

Salonish said players form friendships that will help them down the road in their job.

"A lot more people open up when they're playing sports," he said. "So you feel more comfortable at work asking them for help and advice. It builds teamwork within the units."

That kind of team playing and encouragement is one of the biggest assets to Tech. Sgt. Charles Jenkins, 27th Mission Support Squadron.

"The camaraderie is good; we're very unselfish," he said of his team. "Everyone feels good about one another."

Though this year's flag football season is already underway, anyone who wants to compete can contact their squadron's sports representative to sign up. For those who aren't quite ready to try their luck on the field, Sgt. Salonish said the sidelines are always open for some moral support.

"The more fans the better," he said. "If you can't be out there playing on the field, come cheer for your squadron."

Nellis Sports and Fitness Center receives five-star rating

**ByCarolynn Blinkinsop
99th Services Squadron**

Get fit with the star ... five stars that is.

The Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sports and Fitness Center was upgraded from its four-star rating to a five-star facility by Air Combat Command's Fitness and Sports inspection team.

The center was inspected in August and received official notification of the rating change in December.

The 5-Star program is an annual Air Force program established to recognize superior achievement for Fitness Centers.

A meticulous inspection based on operations, programs, training, facilities and customer service was conducted over a two-day period by the team.

The 5-Star program is a score-based program divided into five categories.

Fitness Centers must score at least 90 percent in each category to qualify for a star. Those bases qualifying in all five categories earn the five-star rating.

"We went from a four-star to a five-star by expanding our training base," said Kevin Hodsdon, Sports and Fitness Center athletic director.

"We hosted the Air Force Exercise Specialist Course that allowed our entire Fitness Center to become fitness certified. Also, we were given training funds to allow six people to

become certified as personal trainers."

The annual inspection took more than one year for the Sports and Fitness center staff members to prepare for and attain.

"It took a lot of teamwork to prepare for this inspection," said 1st Lt. Kemmey Esteban, Sports and Fitness Center officer in charge. "Our staff works very hard, but most significantly as a team. They are good troops who are all trying to attain their individual goals and excel at what they do."

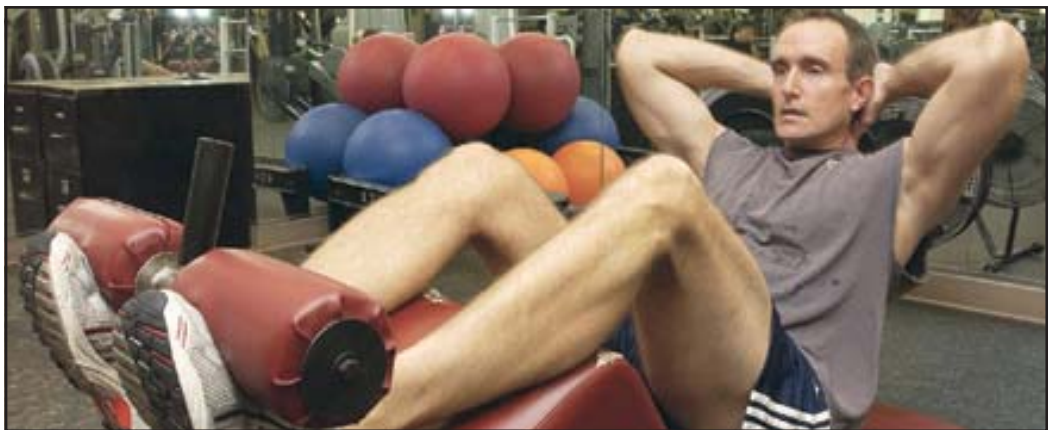
Projects over the next year are focused on improving the facilities further.

Areas being considered are resurfacing basketball and racquetball courts, replacing and adding vanities in the women's locker rooms, providing better sports programs and putting in an additional running track across from Runners' World.

One project the Fitness Center is particularly proud of is the family workout area that was recently opened, said Lieutenant Esteban.

"The Fitness Center staff recognized the needs of families who exercise but had no place to put children," she said.

"The rating validates our commitment to our customers, and the staff appreciates the recognition of their hard work in earning the five stars," said Mr. Hodsdon. "It also represents a challenge for the staff to continue to improve and offer the best programs and facilities possible to the women and men of Nellis Air Force Base."



Phil Purcell of the 149th Fighter Squadron, Virginia Air National Guard, does sit-ups on an incline at the base gym. Mr. Purcell is at Nellis providing F/A-22 support, but still finds time to maintain his fitness. Photo by Airman 1st Class Tina Waugh

Grand Forks Fitness center gets upgrade

By Airman 1st Class Ashley Coomes
Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., Public Affairs

According to Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., fitness center personnel, inconveniences were only a temporary part of a makeover that significantly improved the quality of the center's services.

In particular, the cardio room received 15 new treadmills, 15 elliptical machines, 10 step machines, five upright stationary bikes and five sit-down stationary bikes. The new equipment also included personal 15-inch plasma televisions with cable connections.

The TVs require headphones, which users must supply, but users are able to control channels and volume.

They also feature heat-sensored touch pads.

"This state-of-the-art equipment is meant to keep our Airmen fit to fight, but it is also more enjoyable to use now, thanks to the addition of personal entertainment," said 1st Lt. Keith Prince, 319th Services Squadron.

A rubberized fitness floor was installed to provide more stability

for the new equipment. The floor is also more sanitary and easier to clean, and more durable than carpet," said Lieutenant Prince.

This is the first of several upcoming improvements scheduled for the fitness center, said officials. In the near future, Airmen can also expect to see new weight machines in the facility



Staff Sgt. Fernando Roman and Airman 1st Class Jacob Casey unpack and move new fitness equipment in the gym. Photo by Airman 1st Class Ashley Coomes



Over 30: MDG dominates SVS 79-54

Stacey Pickett, 3rd Services Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, didn't let 3rd Medical Group defenders stop him as he went for a jump shot during a recent Over-30 intramural game. Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

735th CES works behind the scenes to keep Fitness Center running ... and running ... and running

**By Airman 1st Class
Edward Drescher
Kaiserslautern
American**

Like any facility, the Southside Fitness Center on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, needs quality maintenance to run efficiently.

But Southside Fitness Center director Isaac Melendez said they turn only to the 735th Civil Engineer Squadron when they need something done.

"One of the reasons the Southside Fitness Center is successful is because of the hidden heroes of the 735th (CES)," said Mr. Melendez. "I attribute this to their leadership and the teamwork of their NCOs, Airmen and civilians."

Over the past year the Southside Fitness Center has

undergone many changes to make it a more comfortable, better looking environment.

The 735th CES has had a hand in more than 20 gym-enhancing projects.

"Without them, this place would be a dump," said Mr. Melendez, who has been in charge of the gym for a year. "Before this place was pretty much bare, with their help we have improved a great deal."

A few of the projects that the 735th CES has conducted at the fitness center are: Replaced gym lights, removed wooden bleachers in the observation deck, installed television brackets in various rooms, installed sit-up bars, painted locker room benches, made wooden locker room signs, installed



Dieter Zinsmeister, from the 735th Civil Engineer Squadron electrical shop, works on the sauna in the men's locker room at the Ramstein Southside Fitness Center recently. The 735th CES has conducted more than 20 minor and major fitness center projects over the last year and is vital in keeping the gym running properly. Photo by Isaac Melendez

heavy bag and speed bag for boxing, repaired sauna, installed mirrors throughout the facility and conducted small projects such as replacing lights and putting up signs.

They are also in the process of painting the gymnasium.

Mr. Melendez said another thing that

impresses him about the 735th is the timeliness in which they come out to help with a project.

"They are great, I put in a work order and they are out here within a day or two," said Mr. Melendez. "They also have come out after work hours to make sure a project gets done, such as

removing the bleachers from the observation deck."

The positive results can really be found on the comment cards at the Southside Fitness Center.

"All the comment cards we receive are positive and we want to thank (the 735th CES) for all their hard work," said Mr. Melendez.

Outdoor Rec takes hikers up Fortification Hill

**Airman 1st Class
Andrew Dumboski
Nellis Air Force Base,
Nev., Public Affairs**

Toting backpacks loaded with water and homemade lunches, seven members of the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., community set out on recently to tackle Fortification Hill, a plateau located on the Arizona side of Hoover Dam.

The group led by Charles Osborne, a volunteer with Outdoor Recreation, and Greg Rees, Outdoor Recreation program director, traversed the

ridgeline leading up to the summit.

Shortly after crossing the dam, the van took a nondescript turn off the paved road and began the bounce to the base of the plateau. The dirt road leading to the hill, which closely resembled a monster truck rally track, went on for a few miles before reaching the base of the trail.

With the van parked, the group began their 3-mile hike up to the summit.

Fortification Hill stands 3,657 feet above sea level. The

hike covers an elevation gain of 1,197

feet. Hikers start on the south end of the hill and follow a well-defined trail. Most of the elevation gain is in the first two-thirds of the hike because the last part of the hike is along the edge of the plateau.

"Going up there was pretty challenging aerobically," said Capt. Sara Sterling, 57th Adversary Tactics Group executive officer.

Although the hike was self-paced, Mr. Osborne led the group while Mr. Rees stayed in back

to make sure no one had problems along the way. At the halfway point, the group stopped at a grouping of boulders to allow everyone to catch up and get a break from the high wind before moving on to the summit.

The second half of the hike covered different terrain. Prior to the break, the trail had taken a steady climb along a series of small, bare hills, each taller than the last. After the break, the trail lead gradually upward along a cliff edge until it reached an approximate 12-foot wall.

Once hikers climbed the wall, the trail became easy. The trail leading around the plateau was level and afforded a view of the surrounding landscape. It ended at a small resting area overlooking Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. Also visible from the summit was Las Vegas.

Once they reached the summit, the hikers enjoyed the view and ate lunch.

"I thought it was very worthwhile," said Margie Colyer, 99th Mission Support Group resource adviser. "You earn the view, but it's worth it."

In addition to the view, the hikers received another prize for reaching the top of the summit. A notebook that is kept in a metal box on top of Fortification Hill gives hikers an opportunity to leave something behind that attests to their accomplishment.

After signing the notebook, the group took one last look out and started back down. The trip down was faster paced, but still challenging.

"There was a lot of aerobic exertion going up, but going down was more challenging because the wind was so high and there was loose gravel," said Ms. Colyer.

The van arrived back at Nellis around 3 p.m. The hike covered a total of six-miles over varying terrain and took about three hours to complete.



On the top of the plateau the wind was strong. The hikers had to fight to keep their hats on and sometimes even to stand up. Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Dumboski

Snapped around Services photo page



Having a ball

"We work on every body part, (and) every major muscle group," said Alicia Ferris-Dannenberg (left), fitness program manager, during an extreme fitness class at the Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., fitness center recently. Extreme fitness is one of several classes available at the fitness center. Photo by 2nd Lt. Candace Cutrufo

New youth program focuses on getting up, out and fit

Left to Right: Sophia and Autumn participate in a three-legged sack race during the Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., R.P. Lee Youth Center's FitFactor kick-off. Photo by Erin Cooper



Shopping around

Elaine Shoults, wife of Col. Michael Shoults, 2nd Bomb Wing vice commander, browses through the new Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Fox Run Golf Club Pro Shop. The grand opening ceremony was held earlier that day. Photo by Senior Airman Stephen Otero

Minot's McAdoo Sports Center on schedule for completion

**By Senior Airman
Danny Monahan
Minot Air Force Base,
N.D., Public Affairs**

With winter on its way, Team Minot members can look forward to celebrating the return of spring with the completion of construction of the McAdoo Sports Center slated to open in May.

"The way it is coming along, it looks like it will be one of the best facilities in the Air Force and finish right on time," said Mike Nilson, 5th Civil Engineer Squadron military construction coordinator.

Some patrons have concerns as to why the center is taking so long to complete when there are local businesses and contractors who have completed large scale projects in less time.

"Many other buildings are just four walls and some shelving," said Mr. Nilson. "There is no economy of scale in

the fitness center construction. No two rooms are the same nor do they serve the same purpose."

"These factors, coupled with the fact that the center is working to complete the project and stay open for the patrons, combine to add construction time and costs. In addition, the Fitness Center is a very large facility."

So large in fact, there is an additional 49,800 square feet in the new center.

The original fitness center was 49,850 square feet, which is being renovated.

Most of the new 49,800 square feet belongs to the major addition of the field house. It will house three lateral basketball courts, one for major events, a one-eighth of a mile elevated track and a workout room on the second floor.

The entryway will consist of a new front desk and a juice bar. With the

exception of the annex, most of the entire original facility is being renovated.

Patrons can already see some of the changes and renovations to the original fitness center with the addition and use of the new locker rooms. They're more up to date, have more sinks, more showers and more lockers with more storing capacity than the old ones, said Mr. Nilson.

Other areas are also completed, but can't be used yet for safety reasons.

"The parking lot is finished for instance, but will only open when construction is complete," said Mr. Nilson. "Patrons would be required to walk through the construction area. It is a safety concern and the patrons will slow up progress passing through the area."

"One of the largest improvements customers

will see is all new work out equipment in the weight rooms and cardio theater," said Steve Wing, 5th Services Squadron chief community support flight.

One of the courts is being turned into family workout room.

A new area will be a family workout room where parents can work out while watching their children play in a 20-foot x 18-foot playpen separated by a 4' high safety glass wall containing play-safe toys to occupy their time, said Mr. Wing.

Other renovations include the weight rooms new ceilings and a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

The pool area is getting a new and improved ventilation system.

In addition to the new facility almost all of the equipment throughout will be new as well.

"The majority of the new aerobic equipment has its own LCD monitor

set up for cable TV," said Mr. Wing. "With each machine having its own TV, patrons can watch what they want, as opposed to the current setup where they can only watch what's up there on the five screens."

As of November, there had been approximately \$179,000 spent on new equipment with another projected \$250,000 yet to be spent, said Mr. Wing.

"With the length of the construction we just ask that the patrons be patient," said Mr. Wing.

"Because I know in the end they're going to enjoy an unbelievable facility that will exceed standards."



The changing face of Patrick Air Force Base's Manatee Cove Golf Course Clubhouse, as it was originally built in the '60s (left), and as it currently stands (right). Gen. Lance Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command, putts during a pro-am tournament marking the opening of the new Manatee Cove Golf Course clubhouse, as, from left, 2nd Lt. Logan Gage and PGA pro Danny Ellis watch. The team came in first place. The official grand opening of the gleaming 12,000 square-foot facility took place recently, followed by the first ever Pro-Am Golf tournament at Patrick AFB. Courtesy photos

PGA pros tee off at Manatee Cove grand opening

By Ken Warren
Patrick Air Force Base,
Fla., Public Affairs

As professional golfer Jim Thorpe wrapped up an interview with a Golf Channel reporter at the first tee, he grabbed his driver and yelled to the other members of his foursome, "Okay gentlemen, ready to fire!"

First Lt. Dan Bowen, 45th Medical Resource Management Flight commander, was in Mr. Thorpe's group. Lieutenant Bowen said it was a privilege to play 18 holes with Mr. Thorpe because he was complimentary toward the military.

"Just being able to watch Mr. Thorpe swing and see how

he approached each hole was just awesome," said Lieutenant Bowen. "He was in a great mood the whole time and gave us pointers. He also signed a hat that I sent to my dad."

Mr. Thorpe, who plays on the Senior PGA Tour, was one of 34 professional golfers who joined over 100 amateurs for the grand opening of the Manatee Cove Golf Course Clubhouse and first-ever pro-am golf tournament at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Gen. Lance Lord, commander, Air Force Space Command, played in the tournament and participated in the grand opening ceremony.

"Me playing with a pro ... I'm a ballistic (missile) guy. So maybe I can kind of help work the re-entry part of this, but I'm not sure of the launch stuff. For me, golf is immediate negative feedback," the general joked before cutting the ribbon on the new facility.

General Lord went on to say that the golf course and its new clubhouse help work the goals and objectives of the U.S. Air Force by bringing balance to the lives of Air Force people.

"These kinds of facilities help our people feel good about what they're doing," said General Lord.

Among those present and feeling good about the new facility was Toni Marie Jones. Her husband, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Jones, is a member of the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron. He's currently deployed to Afghanistan.

"When he comes back I'm sure my husband will play a round. He's going to love this new clubhouse," she said.

The Patrick AFB Golf Course and original clubhouse officially opened on July 8, 1961. Since then, the course has blossomed into one of the busiest in the Air Force with approximately 70,000 rounds of golf played annually.

The new clubhouse is 12,000 square feet under air conditioning and boasts a state-of-the-art kitchen—plus a spacious lounge, bar and Pro Shop.

Col. Mark Owen, 45th Space Wing Commander, thanked members of the 45th Services Squadron who organized the ceremony and tournament—especially golf course director Jim

Hickey and his staff, and Patrick Giniewski, the clubhouse's project engineer from the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron. Colonel Owen called the new clubhouse a "remarkable" quality of life initiative that pays tribute to all veterans.

Youth soccer clinic a labor of love

By Lori Peppers
45th Services Squadron

For the love of the game. That's the reason Dan Gomez conducts a youth soccer clinic for Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Programs.

The four-week clinic, offered free as a community service to children already enrolled in Patrick's youth soccer program, attracted 60 children to the Youth Center's Adams Field recently. It was an impressive turnout.

"I love the game," Mr. Gomez said. "Soccer is the most natural sport for kids. They love to run and chase things – that's what they do. In soccer there are no boundaries, you let the kids play the game in an as imaginative way as possible, always touching the ball, and it develops naturally."

Mr. Gomez provides the clinic without any personal compensation, concentrating on teaching soccer

fundamentals, while allowing the young players to just have fun. "Our goal is to develop flexibility and creativity," he said. "We want them to have fun with the ball and touch the ball – no one expects perfection, that would be football!"

Recently retired as a master sergeant after 26 years of Air Force service, Mr. Gomez has been at Patrick for 15 years, now serving as an accounting technician for the 45th Comptroller Squadron. His wife is an information tech specialist in data automation for 45th Services.

This year, Mr. Gomez began a new stint as assistant varsity soccer coach at Satellite High School. "Some of the seniors on the team I've coached downtown for the past 6 years, since they were 12. I know them and what they are capable of in a game."

"Dan loves soccer," said Randy Detwiler, youth sports director for



Dan Gomez, retired Air Force master sergeant, accounting technician for the 45th Comptroller Squadron, is the assistant varsity soccer coach at Satellite High School. As a community service and for the love of the game, he conducts a four-week soccer clinic for Youth Programs free of charge to youth soccer participants at Patrick AFB. The program has been a resounding success among the young participants and parents alike. Photo by Donna Wark

youth programs. "When we met 16 years ago he was a big baseball fanatic. He has the right philosophy behind the game of soccer, though, and he doesn't scream like a lot of coaches. He's low key, high energy, and really cares about the kids".

Dan Gomez began coaching Little League Baseball on base in 1986. When his oldest son developed an interest in soccer, he realized

that he didn't know much about soccer.

"I struggled as a parent because I didn't play soccer in my youth," he said. "Most parents, I find, are not well versed in the game. So I set out to learn as much as I could. I started coaching soccer off-base to 10 and 12 year olds, my son among them. Kids in the community generally play well as a team because they grew up side by side and have played together for years."

"Soccer is unique in that it is the one game that combines both team and individual plays. Team play sets up individual play. There is a lot of individual strategy involved in a team environment," Mr. Detwiler said. "Unlike football or baseball, soccer is the one sport that a child can mess up and no one would know. It helps to build confidence in children while they're having fun."

In intramural flag football action,

Dover SVS leaves LRS in the dust

**By Airman 1st Class James Bolinger and
Staff Sgt. James Wilkinson
Dover Air Force Base, Del., Public Affairs**

Dover Air Force Base's intramural flag football semi-finals ensued recently with a clash between the 436th Logistics Readiness Squadron Loggies, and 436th Service Squadron Morale Boosters, for best season record and the first spot in the winner's bracket for the championship.

SVS prevailed over LRS, heaving them into the loser's bracket with a final tally of 12-7.

The coin toss decided that LRS would be first to receive. SVS placed the punt perfectly, bouncing the ball out-of-bounds at the goal line. LRS couldn't deliver the ball from the goal line and were forced to punt.

After a botched 19-yard punt, SVS seemed to have an aversion to the red-zone as their wide receivers had a severe bout of butter fingers. On the third attempt, a penalty for pass interference was called against the Loggies defense, an automatic first down for SVS. However, the Boosters turned over the ball after four failed attempts.

LRS picked up their pace with the game's first completion for a first down. After battling through a sack and two failed attempts, the Boosters were called for pass interference, handing the Loggies a first down. The call seemed to inspire LRS quarterback David Johnson, who threw another completion for a first.

LRS lost their inventory on their next attempt, placing the ball into

the hands of the SVS defense with an interception.

The Boosters' glory was short-lived, however. After two incompletions against buttered-up receivers, SVS served the Loggies a pigskin pie, recovering from their last turnover with an interception.

The LRS capitalized on the Booster's gift and threw the first touchdown of the game on their first attempt with an extra point to follow, bringing the score to LRS 7, SVS 0.

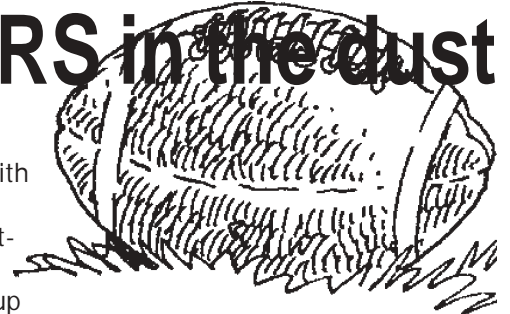
SVS received to open the second half, and on first down, Booster's quarterback Chris Frazier threw his second interception, feeding the hungry Loggies defense.

LRS squandered the opportunity and turned the ball over to the Boosters after four failed attempts. The Loggies offense who are used to cruising past most defenses had hit a roadblock in the SVS front three.

SVS responded when Frazier, with a lope resembling Donovan McNabb, ran the ball for a large gain and a first down.

Frazier then aired it out and Kendrick Brown came down with the jump ball through a swarm of defenders. The catch put the Boosters at first and goal. A roughing penalty was called against the Loggies on the play, but SVS declined and resumed their pursuit for the end zone.

It took another four downs for SVS to get into the end zone. The extra point was botched and the Boosters were still down one point, 7 - 6.



The Loggies offense fell apart on the ensuing set of downs. Dropping two passes in a row and having a third almost picked off, they decided to punt and rely on their defense to save the day.

However, the mobile Frazier ran three times on six downs. One run was for a first down and another for the touchdown.

The extra point was no good, but the Boosters were up 12 - 7 with 1:40 left in the game.

LRS had to score and attempted it on the first down. The long pass was intercepted as they drove the ball into the hands of a SVS ambush lying in wait.

The Booster's interceptor ran the ball ran it back up field for a 30-yard gain, dodging and spinning to avoid tackles. Loggies wide receiver Raul Lezcana fell on the play as the man returning the ball juiced him.

SVS played it safe on the next four downs, giving the ball to the running back. On the fourth, they let the play clock run out and took the penalty for delay of game. They then punted, and the ball bounced out with 15 seconds left on the clock.

The Loggies began a last attempt at glory. Using seven seconds and gaining the first down, LRS passed the half-field mark.

With eight seconds left, they went for the score, but the ball was knocked down.

Operation Desert Snow

Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., children enjoyed a frozen treat recently during festivities surrounding the lighting of the base Christmas tree. In addition to the 27 tons of snow, the event featured hay rides, small-train rides, a petting zoo, a holiday craft fair, a magician, strolling carolers, free hot cocoa and the Phoenix Boys Choir. Additionally, the event also included a live Nativity scene and featured a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Teri Smith



Kid-Kwon Do at Grand Forks

By Michael Coachman

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., Public Affairs

The two youngest members of the Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. Fitness Center's Tae Kwon Do team, Zaire Nash and Mary Gordon, did not place for a medal in the Fargo Open Tournament recently, but they did very well in sparring considering it was both girl's first tournament.

As a group the team did well, earning a total of nine medals. In the teen bracket Helen Gordon took third in board breaking, second in sparring, and second in form in the 11 to 13 age bracket.

Tim Herzong took first in board breaking and fourth in sparring. Tom Herzong took second in sparring and fourth in board breaking.

In the adult female category, Nicole Reybok took third in sparring and second in form.



0-0-1-3 event a big hit

Between 500 and 600 technical training students from all 37th Training Group squadrons at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, participated in the 0-0-1-3 Veterans Day Bash – Battle of the Squadrons at the Skylark Community Center. "It was very successful," said Master Sgt. Lisa Snyder, 0-0-1-3 coordinator and flight chief of the 37th TRG's Military Training Flight. There were 14 teams competing in a flag football tournament and 11 teams in a volleyball tournament. Brenda Cantu of the 37th Services Division serves hamburgers and hot dogs to event participants. Other activities at the event included volley ball and a performance by the band Cactus Country. 0-0-1-3 is a responsible-drinking program sponsored by the 37th TRG.

Photo by Sid Luna